

EMILY'S EDITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

I look forward to being in both services this weekend. The Scriptures that will guide our time together will be James 3.1-12 and 1 Corinthians 13.1-7. The sermon will focus on the current rhetorical climate in our country and how it shapes and influences the world we live in, sometimes with devastating consequences. We will think about our call as Christians to speak in a way that is consistent with the love of Christ. In the background of this weekend's message is a message I preached just prior to the 2024 election. I encourage you to give it another listen or read if you have the time (see buttons below). The Church has an important role to play in every age, and this moment is no different. We must discern a way to speak God's truth boldly, but without hostility. Sound impossible? On our own, it surely is. But with God, all things are possible (Matthew 19.26)!

[Listen to previous sermon here!](#)

[Read previous sermon manuscript here!](#)



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God from Diane Gaffney. The white rose is in memory of Charles McWilliams, father of Kurt McWilliams.





Prayer List

Norma Hartz (recovering from fall)
Brian Newton and team (traveling on a medical mission to Honduras)
Jay Picking (lower back pain)
Family and Friends of Charles McWilliams (passed away September 10, father of Kurt McWilliams)
Pastor Doug Turner (home, recovering from surgery)
Joy! Marriage of Maddie (Stevens) and Niko Giese on September 6
Gretchen Byers (recovering from knee surgery)
Vernon and Landon Reich, son and grandson of Barbara Hilyerd. Landon has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and is facing other mental challenges. Barbara is a volunteer at Envive Health Care.
Alex Oglesby (recovering from a broken arm)
Marvin Sunderman (recovering from a fall, Heritage)
Linda Gilbert (undergoing chemotherapy)
Jo Ann Bagby (recovering from broken hip and arm)
C. Bob Cravens (undergoing chemotherapy)
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 Russia/Ukraine Conflict
Victims of gun violence
All those battling addiction and facing the daily struggle to stay clean.
Our military
Students and Teachers



Serve

[Worship Acolyte - click here](#)

[Worship Liturgist - click here](#)



Listen to Last Weekend's Worship Message



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](#)



FREE PAPER SHRED DAY

Friday, September 19 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Wesselman Woods, 551 N. Boeke Road, Evansville (Next to Shelter House #1)

Paper collection for shredding services will be provided for confidential or sensitive documents (up to 100 lbs.) courtesy of Piranha Mobile Shredding at no charge. Shredding will occur off-site at Piranha Mobile Shredding facilities.

Vanderburgh County residents only, please.

For more information, call Vanderburgh County Solid Waste District at (812) 436-7800.

Write a Climate Hope Advocacy Card!

This weekend in worship, you will have the opportunity to participate in a

denomination-wide effort to send postcards to our congressman to ask him to support efforts that care for creation. It just so happens that postcards feature artwork from one of our youth, Natalie Slade!

On the reverse side of the card, you will be able to write Representative Messmer in Congress and share why you personally support solar energy as a person of faith.

Many people are motivated by love: love of neighbor, love of children, and love of God's creation.

The hope is to address current proposals for severe funding cuts. The administration's FY 2026 budget proposes cuts across the Department of Energy (DOE). Funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) would be cut by 74%, and its budget for renewable energy technologies would drop from \$795 million to \$240 million.

At the end of worship, we will collect your cards in baskets as you exit the sanctuary. Member(s) of the Green Team will deliver these cards to Representative Messmer's local office.



Be a part!

Thousands of people of diverse faith traditions unite under CAJE (Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment) to seek justice for those whose individual voices may remain unheard. CAJE advocates work methodically to identify problems, research their causes, and develop practical, evidence-based solutions to systemic injustice. Join them in empowering leaders and citizens to make serious, long-lasting change.

Welcome to the season of "Listening" for CAJE. This is where the grass roots democratic process of listening to the people begins. There are 2 "House Meetings" hosted by BUCC Network members, for the purpose of gathering together and sharing problems we see/experience in our community.

Meeting dates:

Monday, September 22nd, 7-8:30 pm, Dee Carithers - Host

th

Wednesday, October 8 , 7-8:30 pm, Rich Steedman - Host

To register for a meeting, please email Kimron Reising at:
Reisingsun@gmail.com.

Details will be sent upon registration.

What are your worries and concern's about how we live together and care for our neighbors in the Evansville area community?

With an intentional and inclusive format, problems will be clarified, recorded, and combined with input from 26 other CAJE congregations and presented at the COMMUNITY PROBLEMS Assembly on Monday, November 10th, 2025. At this gathering we will vote on 2-3 problems to be selected for Research, which will lead to the ACTION issue(s) for the Nehemiah Action on Monday May 11th, 2026.

Please add your voice to this faithful process of caring action for our neighbors.

No Saturday Evening Worship September 27

Join us for one service (Sunday at 10:15 am) the last weekend of September, as there will be no Saturday worship held September 27. Enjoy time outside that evening at the Fish Fry! Saturday worship will resume the following weekend.



On Saturday, September 27, Bethlehem will host its 18th annual Fish Fry from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. This year's event will again be carryout only; however, some outdoor seating will be available under the pavilion. Please feel free to bring a

lawn chair if you are able to sit under nature's tree canopy.

Your \$12 ticket includes: 3 pieces of fish, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and a fudge brownie with caramel sauce.

Please consider purchasing a couple of extra dinners to share with friends and family. As always, all proceeds of the Fish Fry will go towards the Tri-State Food Bank and Gather Network.

No advanced ticket sales. If you have any questions about the Fish Fry, please contact Glenn Heseman (812-453-2135) or the church office at church@bethlehemucc.org.



**All-Church
Workday**

Save the date!
October 4
8:00 am - noon

It's time to fix, organize, and tidy up some things around the church. Join us on Saturday, October 4, from 8:00 am until noon with indoor and outdoor task options. Workdays are always a fun fellowship time. Remember, many hands make light work for all!

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On October 12, we will have a New Member Sunday at Bethlehem. Currently, we have three new members wishing to join, and we'd love to welcome others! If you're interested in learning more about what it means to join Bethlehem, please reach out to Pastor Emily (emily@bethlehemucc.org).



Haitian Center OF EVANSVILLE

👋Volunteers wanted!

We're looking for volunteers to help our friends at Vincennes University Adult Education with Adult ESL classes. **All you need is a little free time and the ability to speak English!**

Volunteers will assist English language learners with improving their fluency and proficiency. Having a real conversation helps the students learn how to navigate daily life and prepare them for work.

📅 Class Times

- Mondays & Wednesdays: 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 6:00 PM
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 6:00 PM

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the Haitian Center at haitiancenterevv@gmail.com or call us at 812-437-5285.

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.

Available dates in the coming months:

November 16, 23, 30

December 7, 14

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 Casa Fiesta on Diamond Ave. 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!**

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve as ushers. The Church Council is scheduled for September.



Coming Up

Thursday, September 18

until 5pm

Life-Line Screening

Fellowship Hall

6:30 – 7:30pm

Bells Rehearsal

Music Room

7:30 – 8:30pm

Choir Rehearsal

Music Room

Saturday, September 20

5:30 – 6:30pm

Worship

Welcoming Area

Sunday, September 21

9 – 10am

Sunday School - All Ages

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship

Sanctuary

Monday, September 22

8:30 – 10am

Conference Room Rsvd. - Worthington

6 – 8pm

Welcoming Area Rsvd. - Worthington

7 – 8:30pm

CAJE Listening Mtg. @ Carithers' Home
4301 Rimridge Dr., Evansville

Tuesday, September 23

3:30 – 5:30pm

Welcoming Area Rsvd. (Wiseman)

Wednesday, September 24

6:30 – 7:30pm

Cub Scout Meeting

Thursday, September 25

9 – 10:30am

Civil Rights Study Group
Fellowship Hall

6:30 – 7:30pm

Bells Rehearsal
Music Room

7:30 – 8:30pm

Choir Rehearsal
Music Room

Friday, September 26

All day

Fish Fry Prep

Kitchen & Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 27

7am – 4pm

Fish Fry Prep

Kitchen & Fellowship

4 – 7pm

Annual Fish Fry

Burgoo Building - Pavilion

Sunday, September 28

9 – 10am

Sunday School - All Ages

10:15 – 11:15am

Worship

Sanctuary

11:30am – 12pm

Council Chat

Welcoming Area

3:30 – 5:30pm

UCS DINNER - ROMEO

United Caring Services



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

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bethlehemucc.org