



# The Bethlehem STAR

Pride in Our Past - Faith in Our Future

February 2026

The

Season

of

Levit



# Pastor's Perspective



Our Civil Rights Study is currently reading *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby, which focuses specifically on the white church's role and response to racism during various parts of our nation's history.

Tisby writes about how conversations around slavery centered on its political and economic implications. Questions like, "What would happen to the economy without slave labor?" dominated debate.

At every turn, maintaining the institution of slavery, which was understood to be "too big to fail," dominated. **Startlingly absent (or quickly dismissed) from these conversations was the humanity of black bodies.** Sadly, this is true even in the Church, where "made in the image of God" should have led the conversation.

Our Civil Rights Study includes 23 participants from Bethlehem, 12 from the ETSA, and 8 from the wider community. In April, 29 folks will participate in a tour through Birmingham, Montgomery, and the Whitney Plantation.

In Virginia in 1667, a crisis arose as the call to evangelize intersected with Christian slaveowners' fear that baptism would require them to free their slaves. Where the Church could have said, "Yes, of course! Now you understand the Gospel message!" Instead a law was passed that baptism conferred only "spiritual freedom". Their bondage would not be impacted. The Virginia General Assembly wrote, "Masters, **freed from this doubt**, may more carefully endeavor the propagation of Christianity by permitting children, though slaves. . .to be admitted to the sacrament [of baptism]" (Tisby, 25). *continued*

A hundred years later, the Baptist General Committee of Virginia took a bold stance against slavery, saying they would not permit slaveholders to be members “in good standing”. The backlash was so strong that they eventually reversed course, compromising that such issues are “for the state, not the church” to decide (Tisby, 52).

Over and over again, the Church relinquished its moral authority, allowing the economic and political pressures of the world to influence and silence the moral witness of the Church.



In 2026, any reasonable person would say the Church should have been united in opposition to slavery from the very start. In hindsight, we can see so clearly the mistake it was that Christians were ever involved in the slave trade and how too often we have hidden in the safety of, “that’s an issue for the state, not the Church.”

But moral authority is precisely the role of the Church. It is our Christian witness to the world. And our failures in the past should guide us to greater clarity and courage under new circumstances.

February is Black History Month. During this month, many of us try to expand our historical understanding. But learning is merely entertainment if we do not also learn *from* the history. And the best way to honor the horrors of the Black experience in America is to allow our learning to guide us.

We have an opportunity to apply our learnings from the past in an issue that is currently supercharged in our country, that of undocumented immigration.

*continued*

Some say we need to get those who are here illegally out of our country. Some say their presence here hurts those of us with citizenship. Some quibble with the way enforcement is happening but still stand by the detention and deportation of the undocumented.

On the other side, some argue, “Who will pick our tomatoes if we deport all the undocumented immigrants? Losing them will tank the economy!” Notice that even the side seemingly trying to advocate for immigrants frequently has as its central argument their usefulness.



Both sides of the issue come up short in their own ways and risk repeating the mistakes of our past. Our faith calls us not to center economic impact (both “They take our jobs!” AND “Who will provide cheap labor when they’re gone?”) but the *humanity* of those in question. Immigrants are—every one of them—made in the image of God.

The Church will likely not be the ones to solve the thorny issue of immigration in this country. But we must resist those who would ignore or dismiss the humanity of those affected by detention and deportation: real people, real families, real heartache, real fear, real loss, real tragedy. Not drains on society, not cheap labor, not a monolith of existential threat. People.

Hindsight allows the Church to now see how we failed to center the humanity of black bodies during slavery in this country. We still have time to learn from those mistakes and center the humanity of immigrants in every conversation about immigration, detention, and deportation in our day.

We can start by doing this in our own minds, hearts, prayers, and spheres of influence. Where we might go from there is a path that we must continue to discern in good faith and in our shared faith, together. *continued*

So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them. — Genesis 1.28

‘Lord. . .when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you . . . ? And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ — Matthew 25



Bible Presentation  
for Sylvie French



Baptism of Naomi Ngbede  
Naomi's parents are  
Erin Johnson and Henry Ngbede.

# Let Heaven and Nature Sing

## An Advent Celebration







## February Children and Youth Curriculums

### What we're teaching!

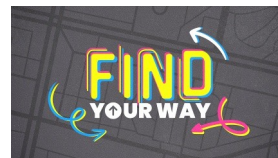
**TRAILBLAZER (CHILDREN):** A 4-Week Series from the Gospels on Jesus' Teachings



**SERIES OVERVIEW:** Jesus was a true trailblazer—not just for his time, but for *all* time! Jesus' teachings and way of life often went against the grain of what people expected, showing us a whole new way to live and love. While blazing new trails, Jesus never wavered from the path of following God, and he paved the way for us to follow his lead. In this 4-week series, kids will learn to **trust Jesus even when it's not easy, show others the way to God, let God's love take the lead, and pray the way Jesus prayed.**

[DOWNLOAD THIS MONTH'S PARENT DEVOTIONAL](#)

**FIND YOUR WAY (YOUTH):** A 4-Week Series from Matthew on Spiritual Growth



**SERIES OVERVIEW:** Life can feel confusing. We hit moments where we're not sure which way to go, what decision to make, or how to figure things out. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a map that could guide us through life—not just for directions, but for making choices, living life, and knowing God better? If you've ever been there, good news! The Bible is more than an old book—it's a map that helps us find our way. In this 4-week series from the book of Matthew, we'll discover how **the Bible helps us see things differently, shows us how to be like Jesus, reveals what God is like, and teaches us what is true.**

[CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S STUDENT DEVOTIONAL](#)

[DOWNLOAD THIS MONTH'S PARENT DEVOTIONAL](#)





## Altar Flowers

It's easy to be a Sunday altar flower donor to celebrate an anniversary or birthday or remember a loved one. Prices are \$40 for two vases and \$35 for one centerpiece. To view available dates and sign up, see our website or click [here](#). Paper forms are always available in the vestibule (office entrance open 24/7), church office hallway, Welcoming Area, children and youth entrance, and narthex.

Available upcoming dates: February 8 & 22 - March 1, 8, 15, & 22

If you have any altar flower questions, please contact Carol Kolb at [carolrkolb@yahoo.com](mailto:carolrkolb@yahoo.com).



On Tuesdays, you'll find this friendly group dining at various restaurants across Evansville. New faces are always welcomed at ROMEO for fellowship and a shared meal. See Emily's Editions for more information.

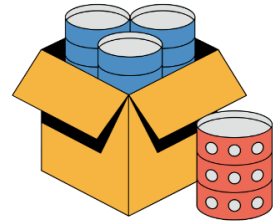
# Hangings of the Greens



# UPDATES FROM OUTREACH

## Tri-State Food Bank

We are continuing our collection of canned fruit on communion weekends in 2026. You may bring donations to either the Saturday or Sunday worship service. From September-December 2025, 613 items were donated, and 65 items in January 2026. The next collection weekend will be February 7 and 8. Pick up a can or two of fruit (with pull-tabs, if possible) each time you grocery shop, and you'll be ready! Thank you for your generosity and support of the Tri-State Food Bank.



## Outreach Giving in 2025

Once again in 2025, the Outreach Committee received funds from the church budget and the Voigt Trust distribution, to make donations to organizations and agencies in our community and beyond. The following were chosen in 2025:

- CAJE (Congregations Advocating for Justice and Empowerment)
- United Caring Services (2 windows)
- St. Lucas UCC Snack Program
- Young and Established
- Community One
- Items for the 2025 Bucket Blitz
- SAWS (builds wooden residential ramps)
- EVSC Foundation (classroom book sets and office equipment - 4 different schools and the Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center received items)
- Immigrant Welcome and Resource Center of Evansville



## Change of Date!

Mark your calendar for **April 26**, the new date for the Outreach Committee's Time and Talent Auction. We'll begin with lunch after the worship service, followed by a live auction offering goods and services donated by our own talented Bethlehem members. In the process, we'll get to know each other better while raising funds to purchase supplies for the 2026 Bucket Blitz. A very small samplings of the items to be auctioned:

Wooden sconces made by John Small

One complete car detailing from Wayne Gander

An afternoon pool party at the Gander residence

Crocheted Christmas ornaments made by Mike Slade

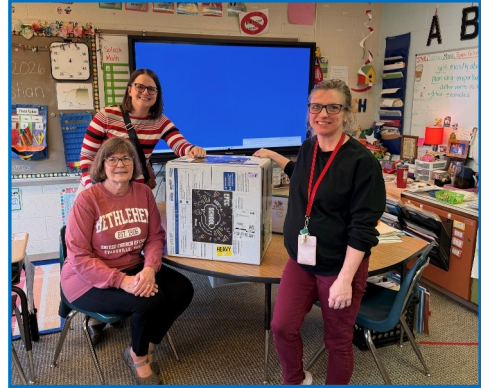
A piece of commissioned art from Natalie Slade

Our congregation is filled with cooks and bakers, gardeners and craftspeople, carpenters and computer experts ... and the list goes on! Do **you** have a special talent you're willing to share? Please contact Susan Worthington (812-589-2213) or Andrea Gander (812-499-8755).

Watch for updates and more details in next month's STAR and upcoming Emily's Editions. The Outreach Team is excited to sponsor this opportunity for food, fellowship, fun, and fundraising!



Some from the Outreach Committee had the exciting opportunity to deliver our donations to local EVSC schools. Outreach designated funds from the Voigt Trust to buy a printer, laminator, and other supplies for Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center and classroom book sets for Virtual Academy, Daniel Wertz, Stringtown, and Vogel. We are so grateful to be able to support the teachers and students in our community!



## Ash Wednesday Communion Service

February 18 at 6:30 pm



Please join us for a time of prayer, song, imposition of ashes, and communion as we begin the season of Lent.

## LENTEN BREAKFASTS

*SATURDAYS FEBURARY 21 - MARCH 28*

During Lent, the lay-led ministry of the UCC and DOC churches has conducted a weekly breakfast and worship for over 40 years. We hope you will help us continue this ministry by attending one, some, or all of the Saturdays. No need to RSVP. Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m., with the service to follow at about 8:45 a.m. The theme this year is “God Sent a Savior into the World” and the morning is open to all men and women, and all ages are encouraged to come. The charities we support are United Caring Services and Tri-State Food Bank.

- February 21 Christ Church, 3601 Washington Ave, Evansville
- February 28 Zion Lippe, 9000 Copperline Rd, Mount Vernon
- March 7 Bethlehem UCC
- March 14 St. Lucas, 33 W Virginia St, Evansville
- March 21 St. John's East, 7000 Lincoln Ave, Evansville
- March 28 St. Paul's German Township, 8701 Big Cynthiana Rd, Evansville

Bethlehem hosts the third breakfast. There will be a choir that morning, and we encourage other voices to join the approximately 10 to 12 men from the Bethlehem Chancel Choir, as the pieces we will sing will be familiar to all. Be on the lookout for more information about Bethlehem's hosting date.

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We rejoice with church family members who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month. A full list of birthdays and anniversaries can found on our website at [bethlehem/estar](http://bethlehem/estar) or by contacting the church office (867-2497) for a printed list.



# Holy Week

Palm Sunday Weekend, March 28, 5:30 pm  
March 29, 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm

Easter Worship, April 5, 10:15 am



## Financial Recap

### December General Account

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Monthly Beginning Balance	\$ 156,133.73	\$ 153,313.21
Monthly Pledge Deposits	58,979.79	47,245.84
Monthly Other Deposits	2,140.38	3,200.75
Monthly Operating Disbursements	(40,179.75)	(36,355.20)
Monthly Other Disbursements	(8,489.19)	3,130.84
Monthly Ending Balance	<u>\$ 168,584.96</u>	<u>\$ 170,535.44</u>

### YTD General Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 170,535.44	\$ 182,223.60
Pledge Deposits	471,480.73	452,665.55
Other Deposits	29,051.35	21,175.11
Operating Disbursements	(502,482.56)	(485,528.82)
Other Disbursements	-	-
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 168,584.96</u>	<u>\$ 170,535.44</u>

# Indiana-Kentucky Conference News

We joyfully share that Troy Vaupel has been elected as an at-large member of the Board of Directors for the Indiana–Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Troy is grateful for the opportunity to serve the wider church and to support the meaningful ministry taking place across our congregations and communities throughout Indiana and Kentucky. He offers heartfelt thanks for the encouragement, prayers, and support.

Please join us in congratulating Troy and keeping him in prayer as he begins this new chapter of service.

## More December and January Moments







# EPIPHANY CELEBRATION POTLUCK SUPPER



# Elder Recruitment

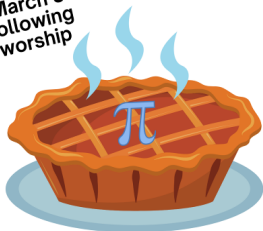
The Spiritual Council has adopted a new policy related to elders who transfer to Bethlehem from other congregations. Moving forward, if someone who comes before the Spiritual Council for membership has also previously served as an elder elsewhere, they will also be considered for active eldership here at Bethlehem. (Mainly, this means they will be eligible to help with serving communion.)

We recognize that there may be some members of our congregation who were elders at their previous church. If that is you, please reach out to Steve Worthington or Pastor Emily, so that we can bring your name before Spiritual Council for consideration to become an active elder at Bethlehem.

## Pi(e) Lunch

An All-Church Event

March 8  
following  
worship



Be sure to save the date for our annual Pi(e) Day lunch on Sunday, March 8, immediately following worship. Along with delicious pie, vegetable and Chicken Plantation soups and sandwiches will be served. Free-will offerings will be accepted.

If you would like to donate a pie for the event, please contact Debbie Havens prior to the lunch at [dkhavens49@gmail.com](mailto:dkhavens49@gmail.com).



## Lentils in Lent

Some of you have joined the Green Team in practicing meatless Mondays. We appreciate our farmers, farms, and the diversity of the American diet. Still, we know that too much meat or dairy isn't good for us, physically. The mass production of both is not good for the environment.

As the Green Team talked about this, their eyes sparkled as they named their favorite soups without meat. Did we hear stomachs growl as we credited some of the varieties as comfort food for winter days? Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 18. One practice is to give up something for the season. How about taking something on? Like meatless Mondays if you haven't tried them; or soup on Saturdays. To get you started, see the following page for the Steedmans' favorite lentil soup, for Lent!

Coming in March: the Pickings' rich cream of mushroom soup, recipe note "Wonderful! Made it 3x love it 3/3/21 – and many more times since."



2026

**Tri-State Creation Care Conference**



**A PATH FORWARD  
IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT**

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 am - Noon CST**

Doors will open at 8:30 am for registration and exhibits

A Tour of the Islamic Center will be offered at Noon

Islamic Center of Evansville, 4200 Grimm Rd, Newburgh, IN

We are pleased to be hosted by Islamic Center of Evansville, whose mosque is a net zero building that won the 2024 Islamic Society of North America's Green Mosque Award and was one of only 39 faith congregations in the U.S. to have earned a 2021 EPA Energy Star certification.

**Janet  
McCabe**

Former deputy director of  
the Environmental  
Protection Agency

**Changes and Challenges**  
Hope and Leadership  
in a Time of Climate Change



**Steven  
Rhodes**

Designer and builder of  
green homes in Ohio

**How to Build  
Like We Care**

**Open to the public. No cost.**

Website: [www.tristatecreationcare.org](http://www.tristatecreationcare.org) Facebook: [tristateinterfaithcreationcare](https://www.facebook.com/tristateinterfaithcreationcare)

## Lentil Soup

Meet the best lentil soup recipe! Made with dried lentils, fresh vegetables, flavorful spices, and hearty greens, it's simple, healthy, and delicious.

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 4 medium carrots, chopped (2 cups)
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 6 small or 3 large kale leaves, stems finely diced, leaves chopped (8 cups)
- Heaping  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cumin
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 garlic cloves, grated
- 1 (14-ounce) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup dry green lentils, rinsed
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 12 fresh thyme sprigs, bundled
- 6 cups vegetable broth
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped fresh parsley, for garnish
- Red pepper flakes
- Grated Parmesan cheese, for serving, optional



Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, carrots, celery, kale stems, cumin, salt, and several grinds of pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes, or until the vegetables begin to soften.

Stir in the garlic, tomatoes, lentils, vinegar, thyme, and broth. Cover and simmer for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the lentils are tender. Add the kale leaves and cook for 5 minutes, or until wilted.

Remove the thyme bundle and season to taste. Serve topped with the parsley, red pepper flakes, and Parmesan, if desired. Note: Store leftover soup in the fridge for up to 4 days. If it thickens too much in the fridge, stir in a little water while you reheat it to reach your desired consistency. This soup also freezes well.



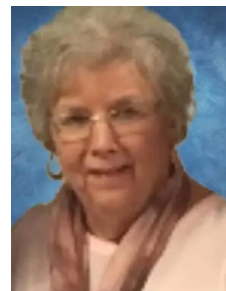
Not just one, but we have 2 ninety-nine year-olds in our congregation! Doris Oglesby and Jim Hitch treated the church by sharing stories of their childhood and lives during the Sunday School hour.



Bethlehem hosted the clergy luncheon.

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

Betty (Lee) Cashen, 87, of Evansville, Indiana, passed away peacefully Thursday, December 25, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.



Betty was born in Boonville, Indiana on January 10, 1938, to the late Robert and Sarah (McGary) Lee. Betty married the love of her life, Ray Cashen, on December 24, 1954 in Shawneetown, IL; She retired from Helfrich Park School where she worked as a cafeteria manager for 22 years. Betty was a member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. She enjoyed watching sports, sewing, baking cookies, and cooking for everyone. Above all, Betty loved her family. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother, and sister.

Betty is survived by her children, Robert Cashen, Jo Utley, and Jill Turpen (Dan); sister, Jo Nell Barnett (Jerry); grandchildren, Josh Woodring, Jennifer Hagan (Eric), Ryan Cashen, Tyler Cashen, and Jana Hale (Jason); great-grandchildren, Noah, Levi, and Jaxson Woodring, Hannah Hagan, Erick Cashen, Ayden Cashen, Kenzie Lyles (Corey), Baylee Coffman, and Rasheide Bell (Maxine); great-great grandchildren, Rasheide, Jr, Willow, Stella, and Roman Bell, Brody and Sylvie Lyles, Benny Nau, and Zeke Freeman; and many nieces and nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Ray Lawson Cashen; parents; son-in-law, Tom Utley; and sisters, Phyllis Leslie and Nancy Russell.

A celebration of Betty's life was held at 10:30 am on Monday, December 29, 2025, at Browning Funeral Home, 738 Diamond Ave., Evansville, IN 47711. Burial followed at Bethlehem United Church of Christ Cemetery.

Friends visited from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm on Sunday, December 28, 2025, at Browning Funeral Home and again from 9:30 am until service time on Monday.



Paul Edward Faucett, age 84, of Evansville, Indiana passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at Linda E. White Hospice House.

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

Paul was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 16, 1941 the son of the late Hattie (Stiritz) Faucett and Sam Everett Faucett. Paul graduated from Bosse High School with the class of 1960. He was a member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Paul worked for Sterling Brewery for 22 years and retired from the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation after 15 years. Paul enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and spending time at his cabin in Perry County. He was an avid IU Basketball fan, but his pride and joy came from watching all of his grandkids activities.

Paul is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy (Smith) Faucett of Evansville, IN; daughter, Melanie Dougherty (John) of Butler, PA; son, Derek Wayne Faucett (Julie) of Evansville, IN; grandchildren, Alli Grace, Cannon Hunter, Ava Claire Faucett, and Taetum Breck Dougherty.

Paul is preceded in death by his parents; and his half-brothers, Robert Faucett and Robert Massey.

A celebration of Paul's life was held at 11:00 am on Friday, January 23, 2026 at Browning Funeral Home, 738 Diamond Ave., Evansville, IN 47711 with Pastor Emily Slade officiating. Burial will follow at Bethlehem UCC Cemetery.

Friends visited from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Browning Funeral Home and again from 10:00 am until service time on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 6400 Oak Hill Rd., Evansville, IN 47725 or to Linda E. White Hospice House, 611 Harriet St., Evansville, IN 47710.

Dear Emily,

Thank you for your generous gifts of \$360.00 to the EVSC Foundation for the Lincoln Elementary Food Pantry and \$2,687.00 for Adopt Wishes. Because of community members like you, we can support our students to ensure they can reach their fullest potential.



There are endless possibilities when it comes to making a life-changing difference for students on their educational journey. Every need is important and shapes the trajectory of a student's education.

Today's EVSC students are our community's future workforce, leaders, parents, performers, and educators. Thank you for your contribution to enhance educational opportunities!

With sincere appreciation,

Melanie Atwood  
EVSC Foundation President

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Emily & Bethlehem United Church of Christ Congregation

Thank you for being such an incredible positive light to our schools, teachers, and students. The investment you make in our community makes such a dramatic impact: refueling teachers, empowering students, and encouraging our schools. Thank you for all you have done and for adding kindness and magic this season.

Amanda Taylor, EVSC





Dear Rev. Emily,

From all of us at Habitat for Humanity of Evansville - thank you! Your recent gift of \$6,000.00 means more than words can fully express. It's a generous act of kindness that will have a lasting impact on families right here in our community.

As the leaves begin to turn and we look toward the close of another year, we are filled with gratitude-for you. Because of your support, parents will step into homes that bring peace of mind and safety. Children will have a quiet space to dream, study, and grow. And families who once faced uncertainty will now gather around their own kitchen tables with a sense of belonging and pride.

At Habitat, we know that a home is not just lumber and nails - it is the foundation upon which futures are built. Your gift is helping to make this possible. Together, we are building more than houses; we are cultivating communities rooted in compassion and opportunity.

As we move through this season of thankfulness, we are reminded that every gift, every volunteer hour, and every prayer brings us closer to doubling the number of families we serve. You are part of this life-changing work, and we are honored to count you as a member of our Habitat family.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dan Douglas  
Director of Development

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Once again, this Christmas, our Church Family blessed the staff with generous gifts. On behalf of the staff, thank you for your kindness and support. We are blessed to serve with such a dedicated and loving Church Family. We look forward to a new year of working together to serve God and our community!

--Pastor Emily



Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1,000.00 to the work of Community One. Your thoughtfulness will help to bring hope and restoration to Evansville neighbors. If you would ever like to learn more or participate in our work, we would love to connect you more. Feel free to reach out. Thank you!

In Him,

Andi Miles

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Dear Friends of Tri-State Food Bank,

Here in the Tri-State, 1 out of every 8 individuals faces hunger - that's 113,310 of our neighbors, friends, and family.

At Tri-State Food Bank, we refuse to accept that anyone will go to bed not knowing where their next meal will come from. We are honored that you feel the same. Thank you for your generous support of \$365.00 and \$435.00 to ensure members of our community who are facing hunger have access to healthy food.

So long as there are neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our region, we will be here to support them. And loyal support from donors like you will help us continue to supply over 13 million meals per year to our network of food pantries and feeding sites across the 33-county Tri-State area.

We invite you to stay engaged and learn more about how you can get involved with hunger relief by visiting our webpage [www.tristatefoodbank.org](http://www.tristatefoodbank.org) and following us on social media.

Again, thank you for your continued support of Tri-State Food Bank.

Zac Heronemus, Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends at Bethlehem United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your donation of \$1,545.00 to the UCC for the Refugee Enabling Fund.

You are part of the United Church of Christ, uniting with us to give everyone a voice and working with the Holy Spirit toward a just world for all. As you stand with us, we confront the injustices of our day.

We offer extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to a world seeking lives of deeper meaning and greater value. Our churches are powerful in witness to Christ's love for all people.

Our witness matters in the world, and your witness matters in this world. With your generous gift, we can do this work.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson  
General Minister and President

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Dear Bethlehem United Church of Christ

As we begin a new year, our 23rd, we wanted to thank you for your \$2,000.00 donation that we received on 12/19/2025. The impact of your gift is profoundly felt by the people we serve. It is faithful supporters, like you, that allow us to meet the ever growing need for accessibility and to give hope to those who can't help themselves.

Whether braving snow or jumping into action for an emergency situation your generosity helps the volunteers provide freedom and independence. Undeterred by the snow storm in early December, dedicated SAWs volunteers made sure that

*continued*



79-year-old Army Vet, Viola and her husband could enter and exit their home safely. The Indianapolis operation had shut down when, the week before Christmas a call went out to help Olivia, a young mother of two small children. All three have “brittle bone” disease.

One week before Christmas 9 volunteers, with only a day's notice, reopened the Indy Hub to prefabricate Olivia's ramp. Then 5 days before Christmas, 16 volunteers, with equally short notice, dropped everything and provided a safe way for Olivia and her children to get in and out safely.

Thank you for helping us to help make these kinds of miracles happen,

J. Timothy Thurston  
Executive Director, Servants at Work (SAWS)

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Thank you to all of the Bakers and Buyers that made the 2025 Cookie Walk a success! Thank you to the Eosin Class that helped set up and clean up! This is definitely an all church event, and it was great to see so many people participate!

Patty Geske and Connie Crab

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Dear Bethlehem Family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, and concern shown during my recent health issues. Your expressions of care and concern were much appreciated during my recovery and reminded me how important my church family is not only at church but in times of need.

Sincerely, Elaine Hodoval



During the month of February, the Eosin class will be collecting underwear for the Pre-K-12th grade students who come to Hangers, EVSC Clothing Resource and Culver Clothes Closet.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

You can purchase items from the list below and place them in the bins located at the entrance to the Welcoming Area, by the elevator on the children's level, or in the vestibule by the office.

OR

If you prefer someone shops for you, Pam and Lino Wiseman are happy to find the best deals on needed items. Monetary donations may be given online at [bethlehemucc.org](http://bethlehemucc.org), to Linda Goebel, or a check may be made payable to Eosin (indicate Undie Sundays) and placed in the offering plate. Please contact Pam Wiseman with any questions.

### **SPECIFIC ITEMS NEEDED**

Boys' boxer briefs - 4-6, 10-12

Girls' briefs - 8

Men's boxer briefs - (S, M)

Women's briefs - 5

Sports bras - 3X & 4X

While the sizes above will help with the current shortage, Hangers welcomes any sized underwear, t-shirts, or sports bras.

Since each student will receive a minimum of 5 pairs of new underwear, nothing says you care like new underwear!



**BETHLEHEM**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
6400 Oak Hill Road  
Evansville, IN 47725

***Please contact the church office if you are aware of any address changes.***

(812) 867-2497 (Office)

email: [church@bethlehemucc.org](mailto:church@bethlehemucc.org)

website: [bethlehemucc.org](http://bethlehemucc.org)

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Instagram, and Twitter

#### **Office Hours**

**Monday 12:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Tuesday - Thursday  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

#### ***OUR VISION STATEMENT:***

***Striving to welcome all who seek God; to grow in faith;  
and to love neighbor as self through action.***