

The Bethlehem STAR

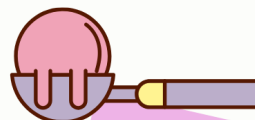
Pride in Our Past – Faith in Our Future

July 2025

JULY 13

4:00 - 7:00 PM

**Proceeds Benefit
Habitat for Humanity**



ICE
CREAM
SOCIAL



SILENT AUCTION



CRUISE IN



Pastor's Perspective



We had a great week “Building Faith” at Vacation Bible School. VBS is so easy to love: we work together for a common purpose, celebrate our faith, and share it with our children through food, songs, story, crafts, and play. It’s truly one of the best weeks of the year.



But it’s only that: once a year. And once a year—no matter how gifted our teachers and leaders—is not enough to establish and sustain a life of faith in our children.

Rather than *the main event*, we ought to view VBS as an investment in our children. It’s a way of communicating to them that we see them, that we care about them, that we consider ourselves blessed that they are part of our church family, and that we aren’t complete without them. What is more, VBS demonstrates that we want to share with them a faith that is important to us.

If VBS were just about getting the lessons taught and the crafts done, then we had way more adults and youth helpers than we needed this week. But “getting the job done” is not the priority. More important is building relationships around our shared faith in Jesus. Thank you to all who interacted with a child this week—from the one refilling lemonade, to



Continued

the one squirting paint, to the one ooh-ing and aah-ing over Lego creations—it all matters.

Friends, the life of faith is a long, sustained, journey. And children who are just setting out need reference points along the way—youth to look up to, adults who truly care about knowing them, *as well as* the leadership of pastors and staff members. We made vows at their baptisms to guide them in this journey!



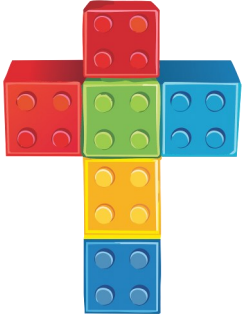
So, if you brought your children to VBS, please bring them back. VBS is a great opportunity for faith formation, but it can't hold a candle to sustained participation in worship and Sunday School. We love your kids, and we want to continue sharing the life of faith with them!

If you helped with VBS, extend your investment by seeking out the children when you see them at church. Call them by name. Ask them how their summer is going. Talk to them about ANYTHING. They notice and it matters. And it teaches them how to invest in the children who come after them.

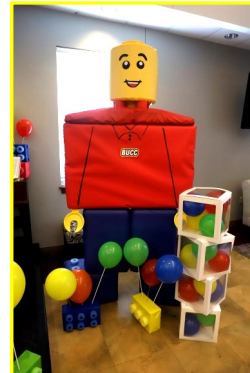
I am thankful that week-in and week-out, young and old are “Building Faith” together here at Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Another VBS is behind us, but let's not put those bricks away just yet. We've got so much more to do.



Building Faith



Bethlehem UCC
VBS









Thank you to all who helped in any way create a memorable Vacation Bible School.

Church has an AED?

While at the church, if you were asked to **get the AED** (Automated External Defibrillator) for a possible cardiac arrest, would you know where the AED is located? Please take a moment the next time you are by the elevator on the sanctuary level (level 4 next to the family bathroom) to notice the AED box hanging on the wall.



If you are asked to retrieve the AED in an emergency:

1. Run to the AED location.
2. Open the box door.
3. Bring the device along with any equipment inside the box to the rescuer.

We have periodically held classes at the church on adult CPR and use of the AED. If you are interested in attending a class to learn these lifesaving measures, contact Jean Hunt.



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

It's easy to be an 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.

View all available dates and online sign-up instructions at bethlehemucc.org. To streamline the process, please sign up online if at all possible or contact Cindy Carwile at ckcarwile@gmail.com. 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.

Available dates in the coming months:

July 20, 27
August 3, 10, 24
September 7, 21
October 5, 12



Financial Recap

May General Account

	2025	2024
Monthly Beginning Balance	\$ 140,595.48	\$ 198,799.18
Monthly Pledge Deposits	25,321.52	32,752.21
Monthly Other Deposits	2,217.08	976.78
Monthly Operating Disbursements	(35,221.14)	(48,251.19)
Monthly Other Disbursements	-	(1,943.25)
Monthly Ending Balance	<u>\$ 132,912.94</u>	<u>\$ 182,333.73</u>

YTD General Account

Beginning Balance	\$ 170,535.44	\$ 182,223.60
Pledge Deposits	176,178.91	174,202.26
Other Deposits	8,626.63	7,121.61
Operating Disbursements	(223,026.06)	(210,856.95)
Other Disbursements	598.02	29,643.21
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 132,912.94</u>	<u>\$ 182,333.73</u>

**BBQ Dinner
Ice Cream Social
Silent Auction
Cruise In**



**JULY 13
4:00 - 7:00 PM**

Mark your calendar now (July 13) for the annual Bethlehem Barbecue Dinner, Ice Cream Social, and new this year, Cruise In. This church-wide event raises thousands of dollars each year for the benefit of Evansville Habitat for Humanity.



The scrumptious adult meal includes a barbecue pork butt sandwich, choice of two sides: baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni salad, chips, and drink and dessert. Kid's meal includes hot dog, chips, applesauce, drink, and dessert. Dessert includes homemade cookies, cakes, pies, and, of course, delicious homemade ice cream. The price of a dinner this year will be \$12 (\$6 for kids) and includes a bottomless bowl of ice cream.

Top Auction Items:

3 night/ 2 day stay at Green Turtle Bay on Lake Barkley (sleeps 6)
Foursome at Oak Meadow Golf Course
Foursome at Rolling Hills Golf Course
Kentucky Kingdom Tickets
Holiday World Tickets
KitchenAid Lift Stand Mixer
Men's Mountain Bike
Green Egg Tabletop Grill
...and many more great items!

To register a car for the Cruise In, please scan the QR code.



BBQ Dinner & Ice Cream Social Committee Needs Your Help!



Many volunteers are needed to cook and serve the food, and to contribute homemade ice cream and baked desserts. To volunteer to help in the kitchen and dining room, please contact Barry Jones: twinpapa02@yahoo.com or Jane Koch: jorpha49@gmail.com.

If you can bring homemade ice cream or baked goods, please contact Linda Gilbert: lwsgilbert@gmail.com or Dee Russell: drussell801@sbcglobal.net. You can also use the form below and drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Thanks so much!

I would like to donate the following items for the Ice Cream Social:

_____ Homemade Ice Cream	_____ Cake or cupcakes
Flavors other than	_____ Pie
vanilla are popular	_____ Cookies

_____ I can help in the kitchen or dining room. _____ 3:30-5:30
 _____ 5:30-7:30

Containers to bring your ice cream to church are available outside the kitchen.

Parting Ways with the Patch

For more than 20 years, Bethlehem has hosted the Pumpkin Patch every October. When it began, and for many years, it was a fundraiser for youth mission trips. A few years ago, the Patch transitioned to being the funding stream for Bethlehem's annual Bucket Blitz.

In the beginning, a pumpkin patch was a fairly new and unique idea. Now pumpkins can be found in many store parking lots and start showing up in September. In addition, a decline in volunteers, and uncertain profit margins, have become significant concerns. For all these reasons, the Outreach Team has decided to discontinue this fundraiser. We will be looking for other ways to fund the Bucket Blitz, as we believe this is an important ministry.

Thanks and appreciation go to all who have given their time and talents to this project in so many ways: decorating, hanging lights, unloading, setting up and taking down, volunteering for shifts in the Patch, purchasing pumpkins, and more. A special thank-you to Glenn Heseman for all he has done over the years to make the Patch happen.



Just like our homes, church projects are numerous. This great group tackled removing the room partitions in the fellowship hall on a recent workday.

A graphic featuring the text "Financial Statements" in a large, bold, black font. The background is a blurred image of a document with numbers and a pen, suggesting financial records.

Financial Statements

It's time for the mid-year financial statements to be sent out. We do this via email so that you can verify the church's records with your own. Please be on the lookout for your giving statement in mid-July, and be sure to contact Patty Oglesby in the office if you have any questions or discrepancies. If you do not have an email address, but you have given to the church, please contact the church office to be included in this effort at (812) 867-2497.

A graphic with a light orange background. On the left, there are several stylized hands of different colors (brown, tan, orange) raised in the air. To the right of the hands, the text "Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting" is written in a black, sans-serif font.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

July 27

Please mark your calendars to join us for the next Semi-Annual Congregational meeting Sunday, July 27, following worship in the sanctuary. An agenda and information will be sent to members prior to the meeting. Additional copies will be available that morning. Looking forward to a great turnout!



Dear Friends,

As I look at the mantel full of get-well cards and notes, I think about all the phone calls wishing me a quick recovery, feel the presence of prayers being said, and enjoying delicious meals delivered; I know that each has helped my recovery go smoothly. Thank you for blessing me and Lino with your love and encouragement on my knee replacement journey. We feel so blessed by the pastors, staff, and Bethlehem congregation.

Thank you!

Pam and Lino Wiseman

Eye Glass & Hearing Aid Collection



Did you know we collect eyeglasses and old hearing aids for the Lions Club International? Glasses (frames with lenses) are sorted to determine those that are usable or unusable, processed, and placed in inventory for distribution to optical missions around the world. The donation box is located in the office entrance vestibule (open 24/7).



Recycling Batteries



The battery recycling bin has been relocated to the top of the mailboxes outside the elevator on the office level. The smaller batteries (particularly button batteries) can cause harm to young children, so we wanted to keep these out of their reach. Thank you for recycling your batteries to help us care for God's good creation!

CHURCH COUNCIL

1. Funding has been approved to update the lighted sign located at the south entrance/exit. This update will include landscaping, painting, new lower base sheeting, LED lighting, and new sign panels with new graphics.
2. The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, July 27, where we will review year-to-date financials and the nominating committee slate for 2026.
3. There will be no Council Chat held on the last Sunday in July; we encourage you to bring your questions to our next Council Chat on August 31.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday School Rally Day & Church Picnic

AUGUST 17

Sunday School for all ages – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:15

Picnic – 11:15

More details to follow.



The Michael P. Schmitt and Lorena K. Schmitt Music Scholarships

The Michael P. Schmitt and Lorena K. Schmitt Music Scholarships will be awarded for the year 2025.

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be a member or regularly attend Bethlehem United Church of Christ.
- Applicant must show an interest and aptitude for instrumental or vocal music.
- Applicant must be willing to share his/her talent with the church when requested.

Applications are available outside the church office. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

(812) 867-2497

church@bethlehemucc.org

Deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2025.

Please send application to:

ATTN: MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

6400 Oak Hill Road, Evansville, IN 47725



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

website: bethlehemucc.org

Follow us on Facebook,
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.***