

The Spirit of Bethlehem



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
11608 Lax Chapel Road, Kiel, WI 53042
(920)894-3332

Reverend Randy's Ramblings:

Greetings Good People of Bethlehem!

May God's grace and peace surround you as we enter this holiday season!

Advent is here! A time of waiting and reflection as we anticipate the arrival of God's greatest gift, Jesus the Messiah! Don't rush it! Take some time to reflect and do things to deepen your relationship with God. I am planning to utilize daily devotions to allow myself some dedicated time with God.

Advent also begins the "new year" in the church. We, at Bethlehem, have had a year we can be proud of. There are so many generous members that have our projects of benevolence throughout the year. (Undy 500, Hygiene Kits, and Thanksgiving bags, to name a few.) We can also be proud of our work towards our WISE initiative: achieving certification and working hard to educate our congregation and the wider community about mental health. This is a little church that truly does great things. *Continued on page 2*



DECEMBER 2025

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JANUARY DEADLINE:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17th

@ 5pm

Send to Traci at

trabefamily5@gmail.com



Reverend Randy's Ramblings (continued):

The "New year" is also a time to look to the future. Let's have some discussions about that. What's going well? What needs improvement? What ideas do you have for worship, fellowship, mission, etc.? Are there things that are not happening that you'd like to see? I have a few ideas but would love to hear from the congregation. Please share your thoughts!

I know we will continue to work together to do the work God calls us to in God's Kingdom. It is a pleasure to serve this community of faith. May God's blessings be upon you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Randy



Sunday, December 14th United Church Choir Concert 1 pm at St. Peters
Thursday, December 18th Blue Christmas Service 6:30pm
Sunday, December 21st Children's Christmas Program 9:30am
Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm
Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day Service 9:30am
Sunday, December 28th Sunday Service w/Sing-a-long 9:30am

*Sunday, January 4th All Church Group

Annual Reports are due to Traci Rabe by 5pm.

Please send your report as a ready to print

PDF document to Traci at trabefamily5@gmail.com

Annual Reports will be available in your church mailbox
on Sunday, January 11th

Bethlehem's Annual meeting is Sunday, January 25th
following worship. Please bring your annual report
with you.



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Follow Bethlehem UCC

on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

Our Spiritual Leader: Reverend Randall Koppenhaver

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email: randynmel5@gmail.com



- **Sunday School every Sunday September – May at 8am.**
- **Gather in the sanctuary for our worship Sunday mornings at 9:30am.**
- **View Sunday's service from the comfort of your home through Facebook live stream at 9:30am <http://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/> OR watch the recorded worship service on Bethlehem's website anytime that is convenient for you and your family www.bethlehemkiel.org**

2025 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Reverend Randall Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

Elder/President - Steve Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

Deacon/Secretary – Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 or LandKBowe@outlook.com

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 or srumpff@tm.net

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 or jm59umland@gmail.com

IF you are not able to join us in person Sunday mornings, please mail your giving envelope/check to:

Bethlehem UCC

c/o Ruthie Rumpff

11608 Lax Chapel Road,

Kiel, WI 53042



You can also give electronically! Please contact Ruthie Rumpff for detail

Bethlehem UCC has added a Donate Button on the Church Website
www.bethlehemkiel.org



Click on the donate button to make a secure online contribution today!

Your giving will go directly to offset our day-to-day costs of maintaining the church. This option was added in addition to giving at church, mailing your giving to church or giving electronically.

The on-line giving is secure by using your PayPal account, credit or debit card. The church is charged 1.99% plus 49 cents for each transaction. You have the option to add this charge to your donation.

Thank you for all your support!



Pastoral Care: Please keep me informed of hospitalizations and other pastoral care needs. If you know of someone from our church family who is sick or in the hospital, ask if they've let me know. If not, offer to contact me on their behalf. I don't want anyone to feel unsupported in a time of need. - Reverend Randy (920)286-2531 or randynmel5@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR LITURGISTS!

Reverend Randy is looking for persons interested in leading worship services as liturgists. Lead the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, and Read a portion of the scriptures. A sign-up sheet is on the door to the pastor's office. Let Randy know if you have any questions.



Lectionary Readings for DECEMBER:

Sunday, December 7th ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent



Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 14th ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent



Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 21st ~ 4th Sunday of Advent



Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 24th ~ Nativity of the Lord (Proper 1)



Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Thursday, December 25th ~ Nativity of the Lord (Proper 1)



Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Sunday, December 28th ~ First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting: 11-11-2025



Present: Steven Volland, Jane Umland, Ross Westphalen, Kathy Bowe, Lee Watson, Ruthie Runpff, Traci Rabe and Rev Randy Koppenhaver

Call to order: 6:35 PM

Opening by Randy: Reading from Bill King – Update on a Familiar Fable

Monthly Reports

Financial Secretary – Ruthie

- Month income \$6,934.00 (\$1,757.00 below YTD collection) \$68,575.00 (\$18,335.00 below YTD requirement)

The report is approved as presented (motion by Jane and 2nd by Traci)
Jingle Change – month of Oct – Neighbors In Need- \$293.46

Treasurer – Jane

- Giving's received in Oct to date are \$7,277.46 bringing the checkbook balance to \$34,618.87

The report is approved as presented (motion by Lee and 2nd by Ross)

Building & Grounds Checking and Savings

Checking = \$1,243.33

Saving = \$8,677.65

CD update (Bank First) (\$5000.00 ea.)

Invested \$20,000 in four separate 7-month CDs of \$5,000 each. The maturity dates are staggered throughout the year, with the principal reinvested and interest designated for a special cause.

CD #5409 invested Jan (\$5000.00)

CD-#1088 invested Mar (\$5000.00)

CD #3584 invested Apr (\$5000.00)

CD #6473 invested May (\$5000.00)

Secretary – Kathy

- The Secretary's monthly mtg minutes were approved as printed in the Oct Spirit of Bethlehem.
- Approved by Jane and 2nd by Ruthie.

Building & Grounds Updates

- Door and window seals are being looked at by Rick & Tom R
- Snow blower will be checked
- Snow markers have been put up- thank you Bruce
- Noticed wasp in the back hallway – checking into it
- Looking at having carpet spots cleaned in fellowship hall

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

Pastoral Report

Worship –

- 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9
- Upcoming “OFF” Sundays: Nov. 30, Dec. 14, Dec. 28
- Field of Dreams 11/13
- Thanksgiving Eve @ Gloria Dei 6:30pm
- Blue Christmas December 18 @ 6:30pm



Confirmation/Youth/Sunday School

Confirmation:

- Class sessions on 10/29 and 11/5
- Retreat set for Jan 16-17, 2026 - planning in progress
- Confirmation class would like to serve breakfast again on 12/7- planning in progress
- Youth Leadership mtg on October 19. Friendsgiving event set for 11/23 at St. Peters 4-6pm

Mission

- Loads of Love - 11/2 - 1 client, expended \$28.50 - . \$66.25 collected in October.

WISE -

- Our WISE certification was approved on 10/15/25
- Officer Adam Meyers on Monday, October 20 - approx 40 attendees

Mission Trip Meeting March 22-28 to Pikeville, KY - Next meeting Jan 11, 6pm @ BUCC

- Hoping for \$100 from each congregation for supplies, gas (BP cards), etc
- Will BUCC contribute chili again?

Pastoral care

- Phone calls and left messages 3x
- Other electronic communication 0x
- Cards 0x
- Visits 2x
- Care Center/Hospital visits 0x

Conference/Wider Church

- Signed up for WCUCB prayer workshop on 12/2 in West Bend
- Community of Practice at Peace UCC, FDL on Oct. 15
- Attended UCMW Banquet 10/30

Other

- Area UCC clergy mtg on 10/28
- Watson/Meyer Wedding scheduled for 10/3/2026
- Prepare/Enrich?
- Lau Baptism scheduled for Jan. 18
- New Members? - Looking at February for new member Sunday

Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

Member Outreach – cards sent on behalf of Bethlehem – 1 sympathy, 2 wedding, 1 – baby, 5 healing/thinking of you

OLD BUSINESS

- Binder Up-date – Date/Volunteered. Steven, Jane and Kathy volunteered to meet at a different date to review all positions and any other binder materials.
- Waiting for quote on the cost of a new furnace and/or AC unit
- Tech Update - Brian Bartels is helping with better connections to the board
- Christmas Prep – all is going well - Dec. service and kids' program
- Annual meeting Prep – Jane presented initial 2026 budget – further discussion at Dec meeting
- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation.
 - o Small TV with VHS capability
 - o DVD player
 - o VHS tapes
 - o Large TV stand
 - o Old projection screen and equipment
 - o Also available is a couch and rocking chair

NEW BUSINESS

- Looking into updating laptop computers-money to be requested from the Memorial Funds
 - o Motion made by Ross and 2nd by Lee
- Old TV – will be disposed of – Schleswig recycle will accept
- Camp donation – tabled until next meeting
- Inclement Weather procedure
 - o Is same means of notification as last year
 - Facebook
 - WBAY
 - Phone calls where necessary
- Bethlehem Ladies – disbanding
 - o Many opportunities to continue the ladies' community, mission and church work
 - Someone to organize communion glass washing
 - Someone to supply rose for baptism
 - Someone to coordinate flowers for Easter and Christmas
 - o Motion was made (Traci) and 2nd (Jane) to use further education money for Rev. Randy to pursue a Prepare & Enrich Certification. This will help with discussion with wedding couples.
- OCWM – Motion made (Ruthie and 2nd Ross)to continue with \$4500
- Request to again hold ice fishing event - Feb



Bethlehem Consistory Monthly Meeting (continued):

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 12/7 – Breakfast after church hosted by the youth
- 12/18 – Blue Christmas - 6:30 pm
- 12/21 – Children’s Program 9:30 am
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve 6:30 pm
- 12/25 – Christmas Day 9:30 am
- 12/28 – Sing-a-long with Darren preaching 9:30 am
- 1/4/26 – *Annual reports due to Traci*
- 1/25/26 – *Annual meeting*



Motion to adjourn by Lee & Ruthie
Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM
Next meeting – Dec 9 2025 6:30 PM
Closed with Lord’s Prayer
Secretary, Kathy Bowe

Bethlehem Ladies:



The Bethlehem Ladies met on Sunday, November 16th at 8:30 a.m. Five members were present (Polly virtual).

Treasurer and Secretary Reports were read and approved.

As of the end of the year, the Bethlehem Ladies will be disbanding as an active organization. The Ladies are currently working with the Consistory to discuss the different tasks the group did through out the year and how those tasks will be carried out in the future.

The greeting cards will continue to be available. However, the napkins will be discontinued. There is a nice variety of napkins available at this time. We will be selling them for \$1.00 a package (reg \$3.50). Please check out the supply and grab some at this great price! Thank you!

Please continue to collect greeting card fronts. Please put in Heidi Konen’s mailbox.

This year’s poinsettia recipient is Darlene Horneck.

On to wash communion glasses for December:

December 7th – Ginny Schultz

December 25th – Polly Jeanty

The Bethlehem Ladies will have a Christmas get-together on Monday, December 22nd at Riverview Restaurant at 4:30 p.m. Secret Pal’s will be revealed at that time with a gift exchange. Our Thank Offerings for the Christmas Cheer will also be collected at that time.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Polly Jeanty, Secretary

Bethlehem Sunday School:

Where has the year gone!

Advent begins on November 30th. The Sunday School children will again be lighting the Advent candles during the service on Sunday mornings. Please consider attending the services. The children's parts will be practiced during the Sunday School hour.



The children will be presenting their Christmas Program in December (12/21). You should have received a letter from the Sunday School for participation and practice times. If you did not receive the letter, contact Steven Volland. Practice times will be during the Sunday School hour.

The Sunday School will be collecting socks (kids/ladies/men) (any size) to be donated to a location. Hey kids, bring a pair of socks to Sunday School. We will be using the "jingle change" money that was collected in November to purchase additional socks. Watch for the box in the entrance area.

There will be no Sunday School on December 28th and January 4th . Classes will resume on January 11 th .

We are still looking for more help in teaching Sunday School. This is not a full-time job. Teachers share weeks and set their own schedule. Lessons and supplies are provided. Feel free to sit in on any class and help with activities or just be a helper.

See you in class.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Keep collecting those cans!

Thanksgiving for Immanuel Food Pantry



Way to go Bethlehem family and friends! A total of 286 grocery items plus \$90 in cash and gift cards was contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Pantry bags. The Merry Christians went shopping for the rest of the items needed to fill 40 bags of groceries.

The following was collected:

25 Boxes of Mashed Potatoes	26 Cans of Green Beans	31 Boxes of Jello
22 Jars of Turkey Gravy	58 Cans of Corn	6 Boxes of Stove Top Stuffing
20 Bags of Marshmallows	7 Cans of Cranberry Sauce	46 Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup
4 Cans of French Fried Onions	8 Cans of Yams	33 Cans of Pie Filling (Apple or Pumpkin)

Bethlehem Scrip:

Christmas is Coming! Don't forget to include scrip cards in your gift giving and gift buying. I have added Amazon cards and Target cards. I will be selling every Sunday up to Christmas!

I have several different grocery cards available for your holiday entertainment. I carry Piggly Wiggly, Pick n' Save, Walmart and Meijer grocery cards.

I have several \$10 gift cards available for the holiday season: Amazon, Walmart, Subway, Starbucks, Noodles, Dairy Queen and McDonalds. Great gifts for teachers and bus drivers or if you need a little extra for that someone special.

We set aside 10% of all profits for the "families in need" program. If you know of someone in need this holiday season, please contact Pastor Randy.

Thank you for your support! Linda Rabe

SCRIP STATS:

		<u>PROFIT</u>
11/02/25	\$3,735.00	\$ 113.19
11/16/25	\$2,350.00	\$ 55.75



CAPS AND EGG CARTONS:

Thank you to all who save egg cartons and caps. The egg cartons are used in a food bank, as eggs are re-packaged. The caps are recycled and used to make plastic park benches. **Please make sure that your caps are washed and free of any food or milk, otherwise they tend to mold and they are not passed along.** Thank you!

Upcoming Confirmation Classes:

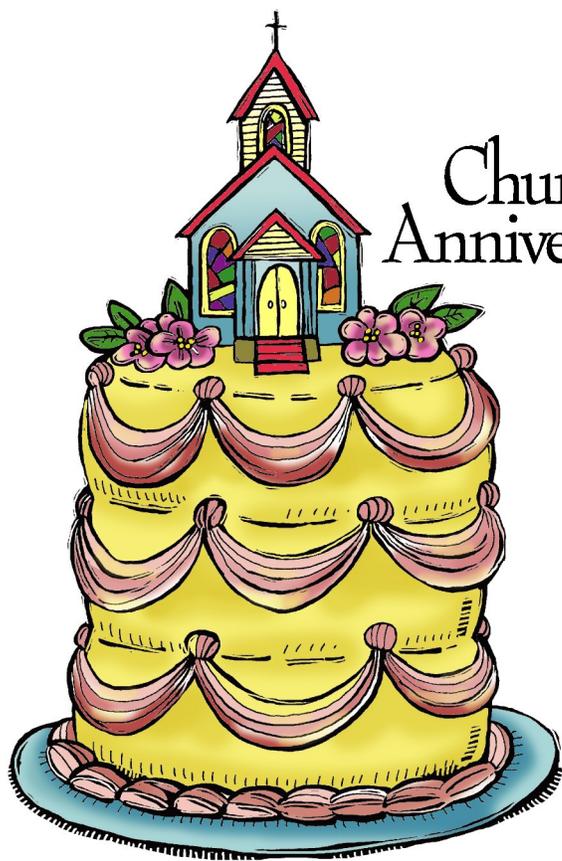
- Wednesday, December 3rd at 6pm
- Wednesday, December 17th at 6pm

Join us for Breakfast!

The Bethlehem Confirmation Class will be hosting and serving breakfast following worship on Sunday, Dec. 7. There will be a free-will donation. The proceeds will be used to reduce cost for the Confirmation retreat.



From the Church Historian:



Church Anniversary

Happy Anniversary Bethlehem!!! We are now 160 years old. December 26, 1865 is the date Bethlehem UCC claims as its founding date. See here from our history write up the story of our beginning:

On December 26, 1865, the congregation was organized by Dr. H.A. Muehlmeier as: “Die Duetsche Evangelische Reformierten Bethlehem Gemeinde”; translation The German Evangelical Reformed Church of town Schleswig, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. Eighteen men and their families constituted this new congregation.

“The pioneer work in the history of Bethlehem congregation was done by the first Mission House seminarian, Christian Schoepfle, who beginning in 1862 conducted worship service and Sunday School in the local school house for a little over two years. When he was drafted for service during the Civil War by the Union army the work was carried on by other Mission House men.

To see how the Bethlehem German Evangelical Reformed Church became Bethlehem UCC requires a look back farther than 1865.

There are five traditions that came together to ultimately form the United Church of Christ. They are the Reformed, the Evangelical, the Congregational, the Christian, and the Afro-Christian Convention. Each of these traditions “brought something to the table” and are still key elements of the UCC today.

The **Reformed** tradition contributed many of the reformational ideas (early 1500s) of Zwingli and Calvin. The Reformed tradition also brought the Heidelberg Catechism to the UCC. The Reformed tradition sees faith as more a matter of the “head” than the heart.

The **Evangelical** tradition brought Pietist theology (late 1600s). The Pietists believed that matters of faith came from the heart. The Evangelicals also brought “Conference” meetings that gathered elected lay leaders and clergy delegates which helped their local congregations be connected to one another. The Evangelicals contributed a mission focus to the UCC and brought a peaceful irenic spirit.

Continued on page 13

The **Congregational** tradition traces its roots back to the Pilgrims and the Puritans (1500s & 1600s). The Congregationalists were very wary of church hierarchy and believed that the church was the gathered people, rather than leaders in an episcopal structure. They believed that Jesus Christ was the Supreme head of the church.

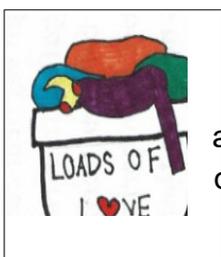
The **Christian** tradition is uniquely American, while the Evangelical, Reformed, and Congregational traditions all had ties to Europe. Several of their six core principles are key components of the UCC principles, such as “unity” of all Christ’s followers and independent autonomy when it comes to private judgment, matters of conscience and interpretation of scripture.

The United Church of Christ was born in the summer of 1957. The union of these four streams was a long and arduous process which strived to reach common ground, while still respecting the traditions, values, and histories of each of the founding institutions. Each of these streams had their own theological viewpoints, liturgies, customs, rituals, sacred traditions, and understandings of church polity.

In 1957, Bethlehem joined with other E & R, Congregational and Christian churches to become Bethlehem UCC.

The story of the United Church of Christ does not end in 1957. Another strand was officially recognized at the General Synod in 2023. **Afro-Christian Convention** practices and styles of worship came from the Motherland of Africa and were uniquely different from the other four founding denominations.

Kaye Radder, Historian



Loads of Love:

Once a month, recipients meet Bethlehem’s Loads of Love team at the laundry mat and are supplied detergent and dryer sheets to wash and dry their clothing, towels, and bedding. Loads of Love also generously provides the quarters for the washers and dryers. With your help Bethlehem will continue to do God’s work through this important mission. Your donations can be placed in the “Laundry Detergent” container located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Thank you for sharing God’s love through your generosity!

Get Comfortable!

*Bethlehem has a new “lounge” located in the middle Sunday School room.
Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!
We also have many resources on wellness if you’re interested.
Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.*

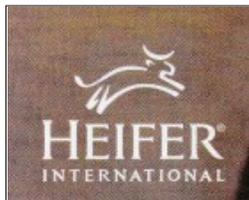


Snow Shoveling Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are needed to shovel the sidewalk and entryway at church. Your Commitment is only a few weeks to a month. Please sign up on the sheet located in the fellowship hall.



Heifer Project 2025:



Still time to support Heifer International.

In order to make a donation in 2025, the Merry Christians are again asking you to make a monetary gift by Sunday, December 7. You can

- mail your donation
- drop off in person at any worship service

The Merry Christians will add to the gift total so people who depend on us will be helped.

Our goal for 2025 is a minimum of \$1,820.

2 Heifers	\$500 each	\$1,000
2 Goats	\$120 each	\$240
2 Hives of Honeybees	\$30 each	\$60
2 Pigs	\$120 each	\$240
2 Flocks of Chicks	\$20 each	\$40
2 Sheep	\$120 each	\$240

This year, all donors will have an opportunity to win a gift basket representing the animals we hope to purchase. Representing a Heifer a gift card to Henning Cheese, for a Goat a bar of goat soap, for the Hives of Honeybees a jar of honey, a pig a gift card to Piggly Wiggly, a Flock of Chicks an egg tray, and sheep several pair of wool socks.

So far we have gifts to provide 1 heifer, 2 sheep, 2 goats, 1 pig, 2 flocks of chicks, and 1 hive of honeybees.

Checks can be made payable to: Bethlehem Merry Christians

Thanks in advance for your generosity to help those in need.

Bethlehem Merry Christians



Bethlehem Chili Supper:

Save the Date(s) February 4, 2026 – Bethlehem Chili Supper



Plans are underway to carry on the annual Chili supper and for the fifth time will be:

Drive thru/pick up only

The crew is already at work ordering supplies.

Your help needed:

Sunday, February 1, 2026

10:30 – 12 noon

Prep day: Set up work areas, cook meat etc.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Bring Tortes

8:00 – 12 noon

Cook Chili, serve noon lunches

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Serve Chili, Dishes, Clean up

Also needed

- Ice Cream Pails with covers

If you know someone who works in food service such as a deli or restaurant, consider asking if they get product in covered plastic containers that might be thrown away. Ask if they could be donated to the church.

Please bring any of these to the church kitchen anytime throughout the year.

The United Church Men & Women

For 88 years, The United Church Men & Women with the tagline “Supporting Ministry Professionals Since 1937” have been presenting scholarships and grants to various recipients.

On Thursday, October 30, 2025 the Annual Scholarship Presentation Banquet was held at Ebenezer UCC in Sheboygan. The mission of this group is to provide scholarships to pre-seminary, seminary, and post-seminary students.

Keynote speaker for the event was Julie Kinney, who talked about the Ebenezer Sonshine Stitchers Ministry. This ministry provides a wide variety of creations made from fabric which are donated to people in the Ebenezer family of faith and throughout the Greater Sheboygan County Community. It is truly a random-act-of-kindness mission that enriches the lives of many.

Special music for the event was presented by Reverend, Dr. Christopher Grundy a song writer as well as a professor at Eden Seminary.

Over \$9,000 had been donated from various UCC churches, their organizations, and individuals for the 2025 fund. On behalf of all of Bethlehem UCC, the Bethlehem Merry Christians and the Bethlehem Ladies recently made a donations to this important mission. Recipients for 2025 are:

The David Heckmann Memorial Pastoral Care Grant was presented to Rev Bridget Hill.

The David Heckmann Memorial Pastoral Care Grant was presented to Rev Sean Cornell.

The Donald Lorfeld Seminary Scholarship was awarded to Hulon Mike Willis.



WISE PAGE

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

In 2025, Bethlehem UCC became the **89th WISE congregation in the United States** and the **7th in Wisconsin**. Our mission is to promote understanding and compassion, reduce stigma through education, and strengthen connections with community partners who support those facing mental health challenges.

Below is a summary of this year's work:

- **Partnership with NAMI:**
We began meeting with NAMI of Manitowoc County to explore shared educational opportunities. NAMI also provided additional materials, now available in our church library.
- **Community Events:**
In May, NAMI hosted a Youth Mental Health panel at Grace UCC. Topic covered issues impacting youth, signs of mental distress, and what are solutions and supports. Our WISE Team members attended.
- **Mental Health Awareness Month:**
Each Sunday in May, the WISE Team offered a short mental-health message during worship, along with informational posters and handouts containing gratitude cards, affirmation cards, and tactile "You Are Enough" strips.
- **June 8th -Mental Health Sunday Worship:**
The WISE Team led worship with guest speakers Sue Shaw, Interim President of NAMI and Amy Potthoff, both from Grace UCC, who shared personal insights and experiences with mental health and NAMI support.
- **August 31st – Sunday Worship:**
Consistory approved directing the 5th-Sunday of the month, throughout 2025, Jingle Change offerings to the WISE mission. In August, offerings supported Pathways to a Better Life. During the August 31st – 5th Sunday, WISE Team led worship, speakers Sue Beattie, founder of Pathways, and Matthew shared their journeys of recovery and hope. Matthew added his experiences working with Pathways and helping others.
- **October Public Event:**
Our first community program took place at the Kiel Community Center. Thanks to generous donations and fundraisers, we welcomed Officer Adam Meyers of "Stop the Threats, Stop the Stigma," who shared his powerful story of trauma, post-traumatic stress, and the importance of talking openly about mental health.

As we continue this journey, we've learned that supporting others begins with caring for ourselves. This is only the beginning of our work, and we are grateful for your continued support.



IMPORTANT Bethlehem Announcements & Community Events:



Save your Aluminum Cans: Sunday School continues to collect aluminum cans. Place your bags in the old garage next to the cemetery.



Bethlehem Ladies will be taking Poinsettia orders. We have single, double and triple red or white poinsettia available. Order deadline is Sunday, November 30th, 2025. Sign up sheet in the fellow ship hall. Please make check payable to Ginny Schultz.

RCF YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING!!! All high school-aged youth (Grades 9-12) are invited to St. Peter's UCC on Sunday, Nov. 23rd from 4pm-6pm. Bring a game and snack to share. Bring a friend! (see flyer)

Thanksgiving Eve! Wednesday, Nov. 26 we will be joining with St. John's UCC (NH) and Gloria Dei Lutheran for worship. The service will include communion and be held at Gloria Dei (N1230 7 Corners Rd, New Holstein). Everyone is invited to a light supper at "Gloria's Meals" beginning at 5pm - Worship at 6:30pm. Pie and coffee (decaf) to follow worship.



Living Nativity – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Howards Grove
See and hear a 15 minute outside presentation of the Christmas story with animals.
Friday, Dec. 5th 6-9pm
Saturday, Dec. 6th 6-9pm
Sunday, Dec. 7th 4-7pm

*Signed presentation for the Hearing Impaired Saturday Dec. 6th at 6, 7, and 8pm.
Join us in our gym for cookies, warm drinks and musical entertainment. See a display of beautiful nativities in the commons. FREE admission, Parking and Refreshments

Sunday, December 14th 1pm at St. Peter's UCC Kiel ~ SingJoy United Christmas Choir

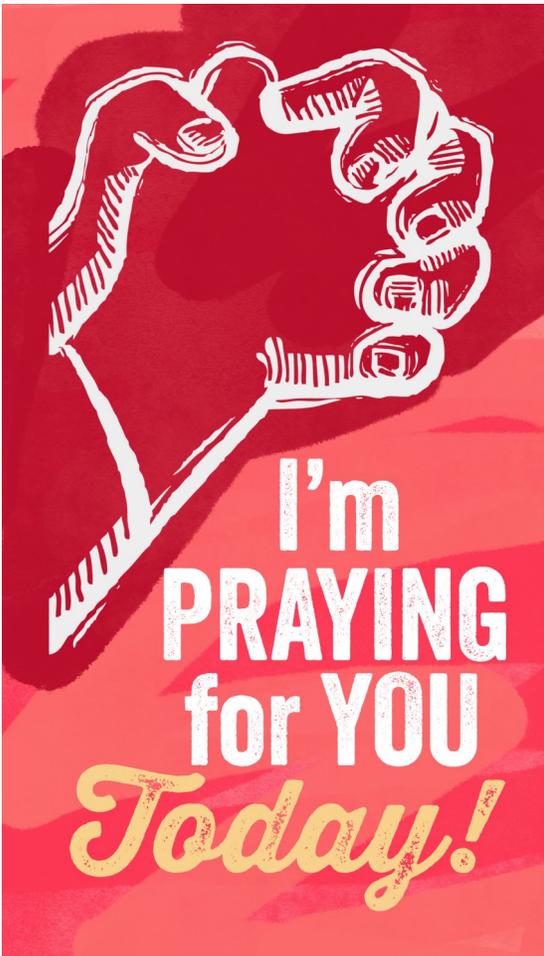


Those in our Thoughts and Prayers

Joys: The birth of Ryland Everson Rugowski – Parents: McKenna (Mueller) and Daniel Rugowski

Those Grieving:

The Family of Tom Phillip, Jr
The Family of Jeanette Wriedt
The Family of Will Mathes



Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe
Ross Sippel
Brad Westphalen
Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck
Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck
Mary Beth Molitor
Tom Lefeber
Dana
Marie Rietbrock
Donna Firman
Hubert
Sofia
John (Friend of Schlegel's)
Melissa
Larry
Chase Goekes
Lynn
Mark
Darya

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer
Helen Henning

DECEMBER Kiel Area Community Food Pantry items: Bring a box of Cereal
DECEMBER Jingle Change supports: The Christmas Fund



DECEMBER BETHLEHEM Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Loads of Love 4pm	2	3 6pm Confirmation class	4	5	6
7 8am Sunday School 9:30am Communion Service Breakfast after worship provided by the Confirmation class	8	9 6:30pm Consistory mtg.	10	11	12	13
14 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship	15	16	17 5PM January Spirit articles due to Traci 6pm Confirmation class	18 630pm Blue Christmas Service	19	20
21 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship = Children's Christmas Program	22	23	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 9:30am Christmas Day Service	26	27
28 8am Sunday School 9:30am Worship w/Darren and Sing-a- long	29	30	31			

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Mavryk Suttner	2	3	4 Kristin Schmitt Kelly Biwan	5 Declan Radder	6
7 Sephen Deignan Jr. Jeff Holz Jackie Voland	8	9	10	11	12	13 Darlene Horneck Christa Taylor
14 Ivan Salm	15	16	17	18	19	20 Merlin Nimmer Rachel Suttner Judy Brockway
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Ryan Jeanty
28	29 Dawn Wirtz	30	31 Cassie Jeanty			



MERRY *Christmas*

We send joyful greetings as
we celebrate the birth of
Jesus. Please join us to worship
our newborn King and Savior!