

Bethlehem Star

BETHLEHEM STAR

DECEMBER 2019

BETHLEHEM

UNITED

METHODIST

CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO
WORSHIP WITH
US!

WE ARE

LOVING,

SUPPORTIVE, AND
ACTIVE!

SUNDAY

SERVICES

INCLUDE ADULT

SUNDAY SCHOOL,

WORSHIP AT 10:00,

CHILDREN'S

SERMON AND
YOUTH

LESSONS

PASTOR
ANGELA GAFFORD
ASMUS

317-373-9581

Christmas at Bethlehem, 2019



Dec 1-First Sunday in Advent, Hanging of the greens following worship

Dec 8-Second Sunday in Advent, Youth/Children's program in worship

Dec 10-12:30-1:30 (Tue)-Board meeting to approve budget & missions giving for 2019

Dec 15-Third Sunday in Advent, All church Christmas party at the Meltons at 4:00

Dec 24th (Tue) Christmas Eve Service

6:00 pm

Dec 29th Sunday, Lessons & Carols Service in Worship

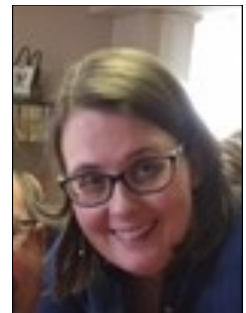


Angela's Angles

Our Charge Conference was held November 10th at Christ UMC in Westfield. Our North Central District Conference Superintendent, Rev. Chris Nunley acknowledged BUMC and our 175th anniversary as well as starting the meeting with "Moments of Centering" inspired by the way we begin worship at BUMC. He stressed the importance of health and effective congregations and I will be sharing more of those best practices with our

church and leadership team in the coming months.

The new District Lay Leader, Ms. Wendy Sue Malone, member of New Hope UMC in Anderson was introduced and she shared encouragement and challenge to United Methodists in North Central Indiana. She read this litany which had been in her church's bulletin earlier in the year. I share it with you below as a wonderful reminder that we are called to transform the world by making disci-



disciples for Jesus Christ. This requires us to engage with our community, building relationships, identifying needs and creating life giving and life sustaining responses for the area we live in.

We have had a busy fall with special events celebrating the 175 years of God's ministry at BUMC. I hope you will join us in

Cont'd on p 8

Bethlehem Family Happenings



Marilyn Anderson & Susie Melton took on London and Paris (here, at the Arc du Triomphe). In London, Marilyn finally got to see the Crown Jewels and Buckingham Palace. There were no sightings of the queen, though. Marilyn keeps thinking that her invitation to visit the queen must be in the mail.

Charlene's granddaughter Alyssa, is busy filling out college applications. Nastia, Charlene's daughter in law, is in India taking international Yoga lessons.

I am very new to the area and moved here to be with my son and his family in August 2019. I have 3 grandchildren that I am very proud of, 26, 19, and 14.

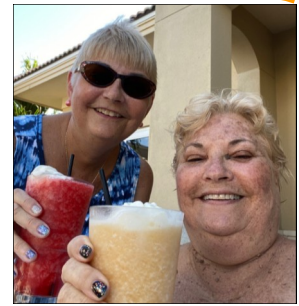
Cheryl Beaver



Mike & Terri Fancher and family at Haleakalā for sundown light show.



Colton McCabe during the football season.



I spent a glorious and relaxing week in Florida with my sister Donalee. We laughed and reminisced all week. Nothing like a frozen drink a dip in the pool!

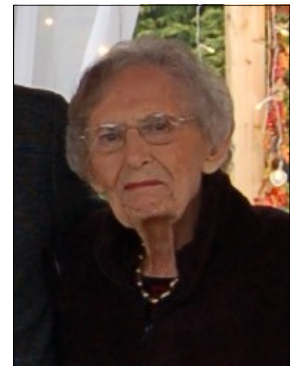
Diane Kleinfelter



The McCabe family enjoyed touring all over France during fall break in October. In front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Sadly Missed: Jody Trittipo

Our long time, dear friend Jody, passed away Nov. 8th, 2019. Jody had been a member of our Bethlehem family since 1979. She and her husband Henry, were so involved with Bethlehem ! They were enthusiastic about anything we did here at church. As a cook at the HSE HS, she was known as the "cookie lady." She is survived by her 4 sons, John. Paul, David & Tom, and their wives, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her final resting place is Highland Cemetery in Fishers.





Editor's note: Apologies as I inadvertently omitted Susan Millers recipe from the Sept newsletter It would make a beautiful & delish holiday treat!

Here is the recipe for the dessert that I made for the Brown's picnic "No-Bake Italian Cream Cake"

Ingredients:

- 1 box Vanilla Wafers
- 1(20 oz) can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 package shredded sweet coconut
- 1 (8 oz) container cool whip
- 1 small jar maraschino cherries

Instructions:

- 1) Layer the bottom of a 9x13 dish with Vanilla Wafers
- 2) Mix in a bowl the lemon juice and condensed milk, then add the pineapples and mix all together.
- 3) Pour this over the Vanilla Wafers in the dish
- 4) Add another layer of the Vanilla Wafers on top of the pineapple mix.
- 5) Then top with Cool Whip and Coconut and Cherries.
- 6) Refrigerate overnight.
- 7) Serve and Enjoy!

Kids Peace Pole Project Led by Laura Combs & Pastor Angela

The kids at Bethlehem have a lot of fun together. In September the kids put the finishing touches on the Peace Pole which will be put in the church yard this coming Spring. In October they worked hard to give free Bibles to community residents. In November they gathered at the Combs' household for a fun movie night complete with popcorn and pizza. When the kids get together, there is a lot of laughter, caring and sharing as they learn to follow Christ together. We look forward to the Winter events planned for the kids.



Diane shows off her work at Random Act of Flowers, where she volunteers each Thursday.



Youth Activity Calendar

Dec 5, 6:30pm Christmas program practice at church.

Dec 8, church service Christmas Program Performance.

Jan 12 Skyline Fishers, leave after church service.

Feb 16 Bowling, Strike Force in Greenfield, leave after church service.

Mar 14 2PM, U Paint Pottery, Hamilton Town Center, meet there.



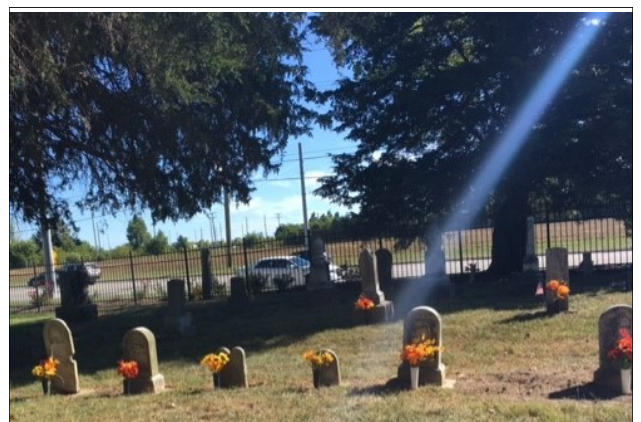
Serving lunch at Ronald McDonald House at Riley Hospital were Tim Combs, Raisa Armatys, Charlene Rockhold and Jim Meier. They served pork from our celebration hog roast with some of the usual sides. Thanks for representing Bethlehem!

Bethlehem's 175th Birthday Celebration,

2019



First was our cemetery clean up followed by decorating the graves, spearheaded by Diane Kleinfelter and friends. Our celebration began Sept 22 with the tour and presentation by Gordon Woosley, of the history of the Bethlehem Cemetery. Next was the free Bible give-away on Sat., Oct. 5th. The kids welcomed many cars.



Thank you to Pat Johnston for reaching out to the local media with press releases. We were featured in the Fishers Current, Noblesville Times, Geist Magazine and on Channel 4 News. https://issuu.com/currentpublishing/docs/20191001_cif_final <https://thetimes24-7.com/Content/Columnists/Columnists/Article/Bethlehem-UMC-celebrating-175th/13/163/63228> <http://www.townepost.com/indiana/fishers/bethlehem-united-methodist-church-celebrates-175th-birthday/>



The hog roast , Oct. 12th, welcomed many neighbors, former members and friends. We had music and a quilt raffle (Thanks to Debbie Witzken & Shiela Bailey). Also, thanks to Diane Kleinfelter, there were many kids' activities.





Thanks to Conner Prairie for providing some character actors from our Civil War time period.



Thanks to Dave Witzken for the beautiful commemorative wooden plaque.





District Superintendent Rev Chris Nunley also presided at our celebration service.



Circuit riding preacher (John Stewart) was a big hit upon arriving at church on Sunday (Oct 13th), the day of our Birthday commemoration Service.



Thank you to everyone who helped to make our 175th Anniversary Celebrations such a wonderful witness to God's ministry through Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Thank you to Gordon Woosley for his interesting and detailed presentation of our church cemetery. Thank you to everyone who participated in the cemetery clean up day and those who placed the fall flowers on the grave. Thank you to Laura Combs and her vision for the Youth's Bible giveaway as witness to sharing God's Word with the community. We appreciate everyone who joined the youth that Saturday: Vivienne Kerwin, Diane Kleinfelter, Marcia Stove, Joel Asmus, Sandy McCabe and her mother in law who was visiting from Texas, Laura's sister, and Sharon Woosley. Thank you to our 175th Anniversary Planning Committee who worked tirelessly for months ensuring the history of God's ministry at BUMC was celebrated: Susie Melton, Pat Johnston, Marilyn Anderson, Diane Kleinfelter, Marcia Stove, Susan Miller and Charlene Rockhold. Thank you to everyone who brought desserts and worked at the hog roast and joined us for any of our celebratory events. May we look forward with faith as we continue our discipleship.



worship, Bible Study, our fellowship gatherings soon as look forward to building a legacy for the future. God is with US. Nothing can ever separate us from the great love of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior. Join me in listening for the guidance the Holy Spirit still gives each of us and all of us as we look ahead to God's new vision for us for the next 175 years.

Out of the Pew and Into the World

Our calling is not to love good seats in church, but to be the people of God.

Our calling is not to be honored with lofty titles, but to honor God with our service.

Our calling is not to be served by others, but to serve others.

When we gather with the people of God and occupy the pews of our church buildings, it is to worship and pray together and to be equipped for ministry. When we scatter, we become the witness of God in the world, salt, light and the body of Christ, visible and compelling. We gather to build each other up, we scatter to Build the Kingdom of God.

This can be confusing because we have grown accustomed to calling church buildings churches when only people can constitute a church. We have grown accustomed to calling pastors ministers, which they are, but only inasmuch as all believers are ministers. Their primary role is to lead and equip the ministWe are confused because we heap honors, titles, and accolades on Christian superstars who have high visibility. We assume that churches with the most property and more ornate facilities are doing more to glorify God than those with simple buildings or no facilities at all.

It is confusing because we have heard the call to discipleship as an invitation to join a group, find a comfortable seat, have our needs met, and be "fed."

We really have gotten confused about this. In reality, the call to discipleship is a call to follow Jesus where Jesus did almost all of His preaching, teaching, healing, and calling – the world.

The call of Jesus to the church today is to get out of the pews and into the world.

(From Master Sunday

Bulletins, author not listed)
Blessings for the journey,

Pastor Angela

Join us at 6pm Wed nights in December for an Advent Bible

Study: The Light of Advent. Pastor Angela will lead us in exploring the Biblical texts surrounding the birth of Jesus. We will trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. This study will include Bible reading, viewing of a video each week presented by a Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University. All materials are provided, just bring your favorite Bible. We also have Bibles available if you need one.



On Nov 3rd, Pat & Dave Johnston's grandson, Chance Alexander Walker, was baptized at Bethlehem. Lindsay & Bryce Walker are the proud parents.



Bethlehem Christmas Party, Dec. 15th

The annual Christmas party will be held at the Melton's from 4-7:00 on Sunday, Dec 15th. It is a pitch-in with the meat & drinks being provided. Directions will be sent by email & invitations.

Welcome!

To new Bethlehem members Jim Meier (above), Joe Brewer, (pictured with his wife and daughter Emily), and sisters Shiela Bailey and Debbie Witzken. Also, welcome to Dave Witzkien, Debbie's husband. We are so glad to have you in our Bethlehem family!



Celebrating Our Service and Ministry to others

Each Sunday we hope to share a picture of members of our congregation engaged in outreach, ministry and mission. We love pictures! Please remember to take a photo and email it to pastor-bethlehemumc@gmail.com so we can include as we worship God each week.

Pastoral Contact Reminders from the Church Board

If you ask Pastor Angela to do something, please follow up with an email or text or note. (Many people speak to our pastor following worship each week and it is hard to remember everything that is mentioned to her without it being written down.) Additionally, keep in mind that Pastor Angela is hired to work 20 hours per week. She takes Thursday as her day off and Friday as Sabbath Day. Please plan accordingly. Phone calls and emails will not be returned on those two days except in the cases of an emergency.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.
The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

A lot of church members singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

The Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

13550 Olio Road

Fishers, IN 46037



Christ is Risen!

Special New Year Worship Service on January 12th, 2020, 10am

We hope everyone can join us for a unique morning worship service on January 12th. We will be saying goodbye to 2019, naming those things which distance us from God in an effort to release their hold on us. We will be welcoming in a new calendar year and sharing hopes and dreams and visions for following Christ into a new time of legacy at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. We will say thank you for those who are rotating off of leadership roles and welcoming those stepping into new roles representing the congregation in decision making for our ministries. Do you have a dream or idea for our ministries? Are you feeling

led to become more involved and want to be a part of a healthy and effective church leadership? Please speak to Pastor Angela so we can minister together.

Our **Christmas Eve offering** this year will be donated to the Indiana United Methodist Bishop's Christmas Offering. This year the Bishop's offering will shared with the 3 Indiana UM Children's home, camping ministry, UM Advance Projects (national and global—there are books on the back sanctuary table giving more detail on the many projects) and the fund for emergency children's projects. An insert and envelopes will be included in our bulletin for this service.

Thank you for the restaurant gift cards and card signed by everyone which you presented to me In October for Clergy Appreciation Month. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and am grateful to be in ministry with you. Thank you for thinking of me and sharing your appreciation to me as your pastor.

Blessings,
Pastor Angela

