

**BETHLEHEM
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**INVITES YOU
TO WORSHIP
WITH US!**

**WE ARE
LOVING,
SUPPORTIVE,
AND ACTIVE**

**SUNDAY
SERVICES
INCLUDE
WORSHIP AT
10:00,
CHILDREN'S
SERMON**

**PASTOR
Amber
Karkosky-
Litten
765-617-3320**

**Chad Litten
765-617-1262**

**After 1-1-22
Pastor Jean
Brindel
317-503-2655**

Bethlehem Star

DEC 2021



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, to & from Bethlehem!

Wow! Has this been a year?!? New pastor, Amber Karkiski-Litten assigned to our church in January, Pandemic church closure until March 7th, when we finally got to MEET our new pastor, and now on to more changes! As we say good-bye to Pastor Amber, we are ready to greet our new pastor, Rev Jean Brindel! Pastor Amber will still be our pastor of record, til the end of the year, but Pastor Jean will begin preaching during our Advent Season. She will be officially our new pastor beginning January 1st.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in the Wonderful Name of Jesus!!

Not quite one year ago, we began a wonderful Spirit-led journey together when we became your pastoral team. Our incredible season at Bethlehem has truly blessed and enriched my life. I told anyone who would listen how special the people of the Bethlehem United Methodist Church truly are. It was no longer the best-kept secret because I loved to brag about (and ring my cowbell) you so much. All of the things we have done including the fellowship and worship we have shared is to God's Glory alone.

I have loved being your pastor so very much. When I began to feel God's leading to be open to a new appointment, I really struggled emotionally. If it were a matter of ONLY love we would never move. And as you know, that call and new appointment to Mooresville UMC came just a short few weeks ago. We are excited to serve in this new way, but announcing our move was one of the toughest Sundays of our ministry. I want you to know how much I love you and our family loves you. I am so grateful for the way you love our children and care for them. Thank-you for loving our family! Thank-you for serving the Lord with us! Thank-you for being the people God has called you to be!!

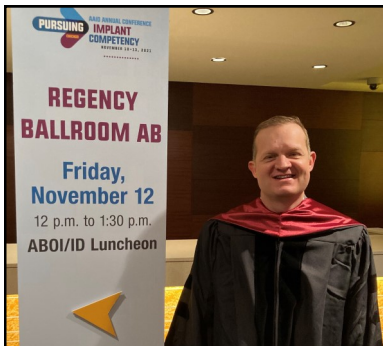
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Bethlehem Family Happenings



Marilyn Anderson and her grandson Blake, at Newfield's Halloween Lights.



Dr. Matt Walton (Marilyn's son) receiving his diploma to perform surgical dental implants.



Andrea Moss Burton and her son, Jonas, returned "Home" to Bethlehem for a visit on Nov. 14th. Coming from their home in West Virginia, they were looking at Wabash College for Jonas. Andrea attended Bethlehem with her mom, Connie Moss, from age 15 until she married her husband, Rev. Rufus Burton and moved away.



I will be praying for you and for Pastor Jean in the days that come. If you love her as you have loved us, she will be incredibly blessed. God is ready to do a new thing and Pastor Jean will serve you well. God is not finished with the Bethlehem United Methodist Church. AMEN!!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, I pray you continue to: Show love, and Share love, and Spread love!
Grace and Peace, Pastor Amber

Calendar of Events

Dec 5, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec 12, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dec 13, Bethlehem Christmas party at Jim Meier's home

Dec 14, Christmas show at Beef & Boards

Dec 19, 4th Sunday of Advent

Dec 24, Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm

Lynn Armstrong

Dec 26, Lynn Armstrong

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.) The burglar stopped in his tracks.

The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there?"

All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an ax and two 38's!"

There are 3 periods in a person's life: 1. When you believe in Santa Claus. 2. When you don't believe in Santa Claus. 3. When you *are* Santa Claus. Rev. James Simpson



Greetings from Pastor Jean

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As we bid farewell to Pastor Amber and her family, it is with joy for her new appointment and thanksgiving for the blessing she has been to the people of Bethlehem UMC. We know she will be a blessing to her new congregation, just as she has been here.

As I follow her as pastor, I know I cannot replace her, but will do my best to uphold and serve this congregation as we move into 2022.

Let me share a little about myself. I was ordained in the former North Indiana Conference in 1977. I served as lead pastor of 3 church over a period of over 20 years. I retired from a conference staff position in 2011. After I retired from the Annual Conference, I began working with United Theological Seminary as the director of major donor development. I retired from that position in 2019. In the past few years, I've had the opportunity to visit my sons and their family, travel extensively and have a lot of fun being a grandmother.

When our District Superintendent asked me if I'd like to come out of retirement to serve at Bethlehem, I had to spend some time in prayer and consider if this was the right place and time to come out of retirement. Bethlehem UMC is such a wonderful church, with its amazing history and great community of people who love each other, the church and the Lord. I feel called and blessed to be your new pastor.

I am so grateful to Pastor Amber for all her leadership and great work that has built a strong foundation for continued ministry. I look forward to meeting each of you and share in the life of this faithful congregation.

Although my formal appointment begins in January 2022, I'm actually going to begin preaching in December. I truly feel blessed and excited to join you in your journey of faith and fellowship.

Blessings.

Rev. Jean Brindel (aka: Pastor Jean)



A tip to keep your wrapping paper on the roll when not using it: Use a paper towel roll cut it long ways and you can slip it over the roll of wrapping paper with a rubber band to hold it in place and keep it from unrolling.

Submitted by Deb Witzke

Eight people enjoyed a Bethlehem night at Beef and Boards, seeing ***Phantom***. Seated around the table are Steve & Marilyn Anderson, Diane Kleinfelter, Lynn Armstrong, Chad and Pastor Amber Karkosky-Litten, Susie Melton and her sister, Jan Cornett.



Our Farewell to Pastor Amber & Family



Blessing of the Bethlehem Quilts



Humbly Born (An old shepherd reminisces)

This was the prettiest little fellow.
He wasn't crying or kicking up any fuss.
They had him lying in the manger of an
empty stall where his family was camping
out between a sleepy old ox and a Phari-
see's self-satisfied donkey.
His mother was young and pretty.
His dad was a nice looking man;
Said he was a carpenter and that this was
his first.
He was standing around looking very un-
necessary, as new fathers are likely to
look.
I guess he was realizing what a lot of
feeding, caring and raising it would take-
And he not knowing where to grab hold to
begin.

I gave the baby a lamb fleece to keep
him warm.

He didn't really wake up, but he grabbed
tight hold of the edge of it, hung on, and
gave his sweetest smile.
If it becomes his special blanket, I'll bet
he'll think sometimes of the old shepherd
out somewhere tending sheep;
who brought him his first present.

His mother thinks he's the Messiah.
Every Jewish mother looking into the
face of the miracle that is her firstborn
son,
Hopes and believes so.
But they were just average folks,
although that baby did look something
special-
As though he might be God's own lamb.
I felt a might drawn to him.
Angels sang in my heart all night.



REFLECTING ON BETHLEHEM'S BLESSINGS IN 2021



OUR PRAYER: The Lord heard our cries to be able to return to in-person worship and socializing with our fellow Brothers and Sisters at Bethlehem.

HIS BLESSING: Covid Vaccines were made available to us so that the risk of infection was reduced and we could return to Bethlehem for in-person worship.

OUR PRAYER: The Lord heard our pleas for healing and reunification. We were lost and needed a Healer and Leader.

HIS BLESSING: Pastor Amber and Chad and their family came into our lives. We were skeptical at first because of our past hurt, but it did not take long for the healing to begin. Pastor Amber through her contagious love and compassion brought JOY back to Bethlehem. Chad provided us with his gift of music and prayer. Maddy, brought each of us the unconditional innocence of life through a child's eyes as he greeted us each Sunday with his smile and Matchbox or Hot Wheels. Pastor Amber's message each week touched us personally as the Scripture and her sermons helped us to look at ourselves as the Lord sees and accepts us as His Beloved children. We are loved and adored by our "Abba". He knew exactly what we needed!

OUR PRAYER: We needed to make decisions and physical changes to the church for both health reasons and to make Bethlehem accessible to our handicap members. We prayed for enlightenment and resolution to our wet basement and potential health issues.

HIS BLESSINGS: The Lord provided us with the people who are worthy and knowledgeable to make recommendations and provide solutions to resolve the issues, including addition of French Drains, a durable painted floor and two enlarged handicap bathrooms. He has blessed us with the financial means to invest in His House of Worship by the financial commitment of His Saints from ages past to ensure the legacy of Bethlehem's future.

OUR PRAYER: The Lord knew already that we would need a place to worship during the renovations and He answered our prayers.

HIS BLESSING: Our Sister church, The Promise, welcomed us to worship with them. Pastor Amber was our constant as many of us were out of our comfort zone with a Contemporary service. However, God's presence was felt and little did we know that Bethlehem in a few short weeks would be providing our Sister church support and comfort as they were going through a tribulation of their own. God knows all and plans all for His children! Amazing Love!

OUR PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, we look towards 2022, with more changes and transitions. Your great blessing of sending Pastor Amber to us when we were in such need was a God Sent. She has helped us to heal, trust and love again. You gave her to us for just this time, but you have other plans for her and for us. Dear Lord, we welcome Pastor Jean as your Blessing to us. May we continue to grow in our love and acceptance of all the Blessings you have bestowed on Bethlehem. May Mooresville know of the great gift and blessing you are providing to them in Pastor Amber, Chad and family. Be with them all.

HIS BLESSING: His Gifts of Love, Grace, Hope and Forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ is our perfect Gift and Blessing for 2022.

SHOW, SHARE AND SPREAD HIS LOVE!

Diane Kleinfelter



The Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

13550 Olio Road

Fishers, IN 46037

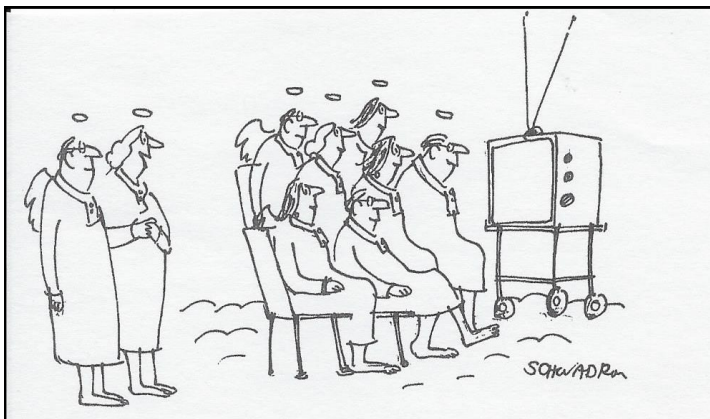
Mailing: PO Box 7115, Fishers, IN 46038



Christ is Born!

**Let your love for God
change the world,
but never let the world
change your love for God.**

Stacy L. Sanchez



It's a Wonderful Life must be on!!

Looking to the New Year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way."

