



# Let's Catch up with Bethlehem Neighbors

bethlehemneighbors@gmail.com

Summer 2021 Newsletter

(518) 227-1115

## Welcome to Summer!

The sun is shining! The weather is warming! Our gardens and lawns are growing! The pandemic is receding into history for most of us. Our part of the world seems hopeful again. Life is good.

Here is a quick look at what your Bethlehem Neighbors have been up to:

- ♦ "Out in the Garden with Judith Fetterley" – a very popular monthly event that includes visits to local gardens with our Master Gardener, Judith. It's amazing to see the creative gardening that abounds in our group!
- ♦ "Hygge: Beating the Winter Blues" has progressed into "Finding Joy in Simple Pleasures" and has moved from Zoom to in-person gatherings at various locations, most recently at Pine Hollow Arboretum.
- ♦ "Eat Smart, Stay Strong" – a monthly Zoom event focusing on nutrition, cooking, and health provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension which will resume in the fall.
- ♦ We love our original (created out of pandemic necessity) informal "chats" on Zoom. It's a place to check in with one another and catch up on any news, activities, ideas of interest. Spring weather also helped us move one of our monthly "chats" to in-person at Five Rivers, where we'll stay until the weather turns on us. We have also continued a monthly Zoom chat for those of us who prefer that.
- ♦ We have begun "Dinner with Friends" – a way to get together at local restaurants (so far staying outdoors) for dinner and conversation. This has proved to be very popular and a great way to meet our members.

Details and more event information is available by clicking on "Event Calendar" at [BethlehemNeighbors.org](http://BethlehemNeighbors.org).



## Visit us at the Delmar Farmers Market!

We will have a table at the market one Saturday a month through October. We'll have information about Bethlehem Neighbors as well as some fun things to give away. We will also raffle an item (likely a plant or flowers) from the market to people who stop by to meet us. (This includes personal delivery to the winner at Market closing!)

### *Another Way to Help Your Neighbors*

The Town's Senior Services and Police Departments maintain a list of vulnerable residents with the Albany County Sheriff. They check on these neighbors during heat waves, cold snaps, and major power outages. If you or someone you know would like to be included on this list, please let the Senior Services team know by calling 518-439-4955, ext. 1176.

Have we missed some idea that you'd like to see added to our plans? Get in touch and tell us about it.



*Outdoor coffee chat at Five Rivers*

Remember you can connect with us at...

[www.bethlehemneighbors.org](http://www.bethlehemneighbors.org)

[bethlehemneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemneighbors@gmail.com)

(518) 227-1115

*"Grow old along with me!*

*The best is yet to be."*

*Robert Browning*

## What's Coming Next?

Looking forward – what's on the horizon for Bethlehem Neighbors (coming over the next months) –

- Planning is under way for a fall picnic event (remember the September picnic at the Y a couple of years ago?) – It may look different this time due to pandemic precautions, but we hope to make it happen.
- We will be participating in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser in October – we'll be selling passes to the sale for \$5 each. When you buy the pass, it entitles you to a 25% discount on your purchases at Boscov's on the day of the sale. The \$5 stays with Bethlehem Neighbors. Easy peasy....
- We plan to hold our holiday plant and wreath sale again this year – the plants were gorgeous last year and everyone who ordered was pleased. Stay tuned for more on that.

## Our Village Services are Starting to Expand!

Bethlehem Neighbors is happy to announce that we've begun to offer some services to our members from other members who want to "help out." So far, we've provided rides for people who need transportation for medical visits. We had a great meeting with Bethlehem Senior Services to let them know our availability to assist at times or for things that they cannot provide. We expect to expand this as the needs arise. *(For those of you who have been frustrated about not being able to volunteer to help others, this is for you!)*



You may have noticed the Amazon Smile logo appearing on our web site. We have become part of this program, which contributes a small portion of your shopping to Bethlehem Neighbors.

It's so easy to access: all you need to do is type the link below into your address bar

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-1389819>

or better yet, update your Amazon bookmark so that you're always just a click away!

We all know Amazon became even more important during the pandemic days and many of us are quite "hooked" on the convenience. And now enjoy your shopping more, knowing that you're helping Bethlehem Neighbors.