



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Darren Beachy

Organist: Kathy Bowe

Liturgist: Steven Voland

If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM

***= Please rise in body or spirit**

CENTERING BREATH PRAYER: as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

Teach me your paths, O Lord :: Lead me in your Truth

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

We are beginning our journey through Lent.

God is with us on the way.

We come to find light in the shadows and strength in our weakness.

We will remember God's faithfulness.

We seek God's mercy and truth step by step, day by day.

We trust in God's steadfast love, so we worship with grateful hearts!

***OPENING PRAYER:**

**Good and gracious God, Creator of earth and sky,
Maker of rainbows and raindrops,
we praise you for the beauty of the world us,
and for the hope of life with you now and always.
We praise you for your faithfulness and loving kindness
throughout all generations, for your promise of grace,
for your compassion and redemption revealed to us in Christ Jesus.
Receive our prayers and praises this day and teach us how to live by your
love. Amen**

***OPENING HYMN #173 all “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Wise and Merciful God,
you made a covenant with us in faithfulness,
but we confess we are not always so faithful to you.
We grow tired and restless when things don't go our way.
We lose patience with others.
We lack compassion for our neighbors in need,
and forget to express love for those closest to us.
Forgive us. Make us prisms of your love,
with the light of Christ light shining through us. Amen. (time of silence)**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news. Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God has come near.

Let us trust in his forgiving love and forgive one another in his name. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558**

“Gloria Patri”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 25 #1-10 – p. 606 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, congregation reads even. (Stop after verse 10)

1 Kings 19:7-13a

The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, ‘Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.’ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed

your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

Job 42:1-6

Then Job answered the LORD:

'I know that you can do all things,

and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?"

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,

things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

"Hear, and I will speak;

I will question you, and you declare to me."

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,

but now my eye sees you;

therefore I despise myself,

and repent in dust and ashes.'

SERMON "Meeting God Again for the First Time"

Darren Beachy

*HYMN #350 all

"O Love that Wilt not Let Me Go"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: The season of Lent takes us on a journey with Jesus to prepare us for the day he gave his life for our sake. Consider what he has given as you offer your gifts to God in his name.

OFFERTORY (Jingle change goes to the Sunday School's Leprosy Collection)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v.1

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of courage and compassion, we bring our gifts to you in Jesus' name. This year the world badly needs both his courage and compassion. Bless our gifts so that they bring hope to others in these challenging times. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"Go Now in Peace"

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.
Know he will guide you, in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethlehem UCC is hosting a free presentation on Advanced Directives on Tuesday, Feb 27th at 6:30pm. Representatives from Froedtert Medical will be explaining the importance of living wills and medical powers of attorney. If you were suddenly unable to make your own medical decisions and didn't have advanced directives legally in place, your medical decisions would be made by the courts. Other important "end of life" decisions should be put in place as well. The legal paperwork from the state of Wisconsin will be available. Invite your friends. All are encouraged to attend.
- Bethlehem will be having a "GAME DAY" after church on Sunday, March 3. Bring your favorite board games, a deck of cards, etc., and let's have some fellowship time! Snacks will be served.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There are still victims of the Kiel apartment fire in need of short-term housing. If you, or someone you know has apartments or other rentals available, please let Pastor Randy know. Currently, material goods are NOT needed.
- InCourage Domestic Abuse Shelter of Manitowoc is hosting a charity event on Sat. Feb 24 – info on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- Sunday, Feb. 25 - Soup Cook-Off – Supporting the youth mission trip of area UCC churches – enter a soup – be a “taster” – details on the table in the Fellowship Hall.
- Mission and service opportunity: Feed my Starving Children – March 8 and 9 @ First United Lutheran Church – Sheboygan. Info on “Missions” bulletin board.

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven 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 LandKBowe@outlook.com

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

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

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Those struggling with health issues:

Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Sarah Arnold	Tom Brickbauer
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Daisy Sippel
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Crystal
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer



Lenten Schedule: (For your refrigerator)

Wednesday, February 21 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Wednesday, February 28 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6pm Service Project; 6pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 6 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Wednesday, March 13 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6pm Service Project; 6pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 20 – 9a-6pm Prayer Stations; 6:30pm Mid-week worship

Thursday, March 28 – 6pm Maundy Thursday Sedar meal worship

Friday, March 29 – 6pm Good Friday Worship @ St. Peters UCC-Kiel

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 2/18: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 1pm RCF Sheepshead event at BUCC; **Spirit News Due to Traci by 5pm ~*Happy Birthday Ashley Radder!*

Monday 2/19: *Happy Birthday Emilee Wirtz! Happy Anniversary Tony & Pam Bowe!*

Tuesday 2/20: ~*Happy Birthday Dawn Muehlbauer and Jesse Rumpff!!*

Wednesday 2/21: 6:30pm Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Thursday 2/22: 8:30am BUCC volunteers at Immanuel Food Pantry; *Happy Birthday Trenton Rabe!*

Friday 2/23:

Saturday 2/24: ~*Happy Birthday Amelia Horneck!*

Sunday 2/25: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 11a-2p Soup cook-off at Laacks Hall, Johnsonville. Supports mission trip of area UCC churches: *Happy Birthday Julia Gabrielese!*

February Pantry Items:

Box of Sandwich Bags, Garbage Bags, Plastic Wrap or Foil