



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**Sunday, August 18, 2024
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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

Great are the works of the Lord :: God's praise endures forever

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #557 v. 1 "I Just Came to Praise the Lord"
(Polly will play through once before singing.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 111)**

One: Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God in the congregation.

Many: **God's works delight us, inspire us, challenge us, and uphold us.**

One: Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God in the congregation.

Many: **Righteousness endures forever. The covenant is everlasting.**

One: Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God in the congregation.

Many: **Honoring God leads to wisdom. Let us praise the Holy One forever!**

*OPENING PRAYER:

Holy God, we come together in your presence to offer worship, thanksgiving, and praise. We remember your covenant and acknowledge your abiding presence. Envelop us in your glory, strengthen us to confront the weariness of the world, challenge us to spread the good news, and empower us to be the church you have created us to be. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: #68

“Come Christians Join to Sing”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Holy God, we find wisdom in your word, in your presence, and in your way. Help us to follow the path of love, community, and sharing. Open our awareness to the unmet needs in our community and the ways we may meet them. Open our compassion to notice those who too often go without being acknowledged. Open our schedules to be present to your Spirit, our neighbors, and ourselves. Fill us with wisdom, peace, and hope to move boldly toward new life and the fullness of joy. (time of silent reflection...)

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, God honors our request for wisdom.

Individually, and most importantly, collectively, we have the wisdom, discernment, and understanding necessary to meet the challenges of the day, to live a life pleasing to the Holy One, and to participate in the coming of God’s kingdom. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #358

“Only Believe”

(Polly will play through once before singing.)

**Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe;
Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 111 – p. 692 in hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving

thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN #349

“Take my Life and Let it Be”

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

Petitions end with: “Lord in your Mercy, **Hear our 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

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for the month of August goes to Bethlehem's Mission and Service Sunday Project – Clean-up buckets for disaster relief.)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

**Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son (2 times)**

And now...

let the weak say, “I am strong”

Let the poor say, “I am rich

**Because of what the Lord has done
for us” (2 times)**

Give thanks... (2 times)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous and Wise God, you give freely and we receive freely. Sow in us discernment, understanding, and wisdom to be good stewards of the bounty we receive and the resources we have earned. Let us treat them all as gifts to be shared so that none will be in want or need to live full and abundant lives.

*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

**This morning's liturgies were used with permission from <https://ucc.org/worship-way/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy will be out of the state Aug. 20-25 and Aug. 29-Sept. 3. Please contact Pastor Nicole of St. Peter's UCC with any pastoral care needs. (920-242-8308)
- Once again, we are seeking individuals willing to be Confirmation Mentors. Your commitment is one meeting per month with your student. What's required: Your willingness to be accepting, a good listener, and supportive. What's NOT required: any special biblical or theological knowledge or the desire to impress your beliefs on the student. The job description is to be a mentor and friend, not a teacher. Please see Pastor Randy if you're willing to accept the challenge!
- On Sunday, Sept 8, we will conduct a Blessing of the Backpacks! Any student, young or otherwise, is invited to bring their bookbags, backpacks, etc. If you're not a student and just want your "work bag" blessed, bring it along!!
- Remember to complete and return your WISE survey by the end of August!
- The Bethlehem Ladies are continuing to collect items for the Harbor House woman's shelter. Information and collection site is located near the church entrance.
- On Mission and Service Sunday in September, we will be putting together disaster clean up kits for Church World Service. An example kit has been created. If you wish to contribute, please buy the EXACT item. They are somewhat fussy about the items. You can also donate money and the "team" will purchase the necessary supplies.
- Ready to talk about Christmas??? We are once again organizing the "United Church Choir" to perform on Dec. 8. See Randy if interested!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- **Upcoming NAMI Events:** If interested, Let Pastor Randy know and he will forward you the email with registration links
 - Desk Yoga – Thursday, Aug 29 – 12-12:30pm via Zoom
 - NAMI Walk – Sat. Oct 5 – 12-2pm – Kiwanis Park, Sheboygan

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 Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Those Grieving:

Those struggling with health issues:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Will Mathes | Doris Mae Nimmer |
| Jeanette Wriedt | Wanda Matzdorf |
| Brad Westphalen | Chad Jeanty |
| Art Matzdorf | Jessica Horneck |
| Nancy Zimmermann | Jim Markelz |
| Gary Steinhardt | Marie Rietbrock |
| Mason Kannell | Shari |
| Heidi Konen | Mary Beth Molitor |
| Dawson Horneck | Emily (Melissa's cousin) |
| Darlene Horneck | Tom Lefeber |
| Rhonda Schroeder | Nancy |



Doris Mae is at Willowdale in room 110. She would welcome any cards or visitors!

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer Helen Henning

Get Comfortable! Bethlehem has a new “lounge” located in the middle Sunday School room. Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!

Feel free to lounge or meet for conversation.

Before church - After church – While your kids are at Sunday School!

ASP 2025 FUNDRAISER

Hi friends! My name is Hayden Woods, and I was one of the fourteen that went to West Virginia earlier this summer on the **Appalachia Service Project (ASP)** mission trip. I had a humbling and rewarding experience. I plan on attending the 2025 ASP mission trip next summer. I am partnering with *Pampered Chef* to raise funds during their double donations for a cause in the month of August. To make the trip in 2025 more affordable to anyone that would like to join us, we need your help!! Visit the link provided or scan the QR code to shop the Pampered Chef Website that is linked to our ASP fundraiser. Payment is made on the Pampered Chef's secure site, and your items will be mailed directly to you. The best part is up to 30% of sales will be donated back to ASP!

Thank you in advance for your generosity. I encourage you to share the link with others to increase the opportunity of this gift of service with ASP.

If you need assistance, or have questions, please don't hesitate to call our consultant Mary Beth Woods. 920-242-1212.

<https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/haydenwoods0810>



This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 8/18: 8:30a Bethlehem Ladies; 8:45 WISE; 9:30am Worship; **Spirit News Due at 5pm**

Monday 8/19: ~Happy Birthday Ian Schmidt!

Tuesday 8/20: ~Happy Birthday Tess Rabe and Rachel Muehlbauer! Happy Anniversary David & Julie Meyer!

Wednesday 8/21: ~Happy Birthday Kyle Pennell!!

Thursday 8/22:

Friday 8/23: 8:30am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry;

Saturday 8/24:

Sunday 8/24: 9:00am Worship

**August Pantry Items:
Jar of Peanut Butter or Jelly**