



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, September 22, 2024**  
**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**  
**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

*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

***Make a joyful noise to the Lord :: serve the Lord with gladness***

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #557 v. 1 "I Just Came to Praise the Lord"

**I just came to praise the Lord, I just came to praise the Lo—rd**

**I just came to praise his Ho--ly Name, I just came to praise the Lord**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

From sunrise to sunset,

**Let us praise God's holy name.**

With the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young,

**Let us praise God's holy name.**

In our work, in our homes, and in all we do,  
**Let us praise God's holy name.**

Let us praise the Lord with all our hearts!  
**We will worship God now and always.**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**Good God, make yourself known among us. We lift our voices in song, our hearts in prayer, our minds in consideration, our lives in adoration toward you. We acknowledge that your Spirit leads, comforts, and challenges us as we follow you. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: #495                      "They'll Know we are Christians by our Love"

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

**Holy Love, we confess that too often we become fixated with our position in the world. We love the exercise of our own power and exert it over others rather for the benefit of the common good and your kingdom. Transform our hearts to crave you as the source of our power and love the only good and fulfilling demonstration of it. Make us your instruments of peace, joy, and hope in the world and agents of new life. Amen.**

(Brief silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires of us three things:  
**to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**  
To all who truly repent and seek reconciliation with God and neighbour in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace.  
**All praise be to God! Amen!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #358

"Only Believe"

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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Micah 6:8**

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**Psalm 1** – p. 582 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

**James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a;**

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>4</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

CHILDREN'S TIME

MISSION MOMENT

Jen Marten, Immanuel UCC Food Pantry

\*HYMN #307

"We are Called"

LITANY FOR MISSION...THE LORD'S PRAYER

God the Father, Creator of heaven and Earth, **Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the Faithful, **Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, **Have mercy on us.**

May it please you to send your church in all the world, that the name of Jesus may be known and his love demonstrated to all peoples, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to awaken a zeal for missions in the hearts of all your people, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to send out laborers into your harvest, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to enkindle within your people an awareness of mission and a willingness to provide faithful support, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to bless the missions to all continents of the world, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

For all people driven from their homes by war, violence, and natural disaster and for the nations who receive them that you may provide, protect, and care for them, We pray to you, O God. **Lord hear our prayer**

For the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed people of the world, and all who suffer, We pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and infirm and those who minister to them, We pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the hope of the Resurrection, and those whose faith is known to you alone, We pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. And we pray as Christ taught us...

<https://agmp-na.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AGMPLitanyforMission2018.pdf>

**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 September supports the Rural Church Fellowship's CROP WALK)

\*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**

**Wise and faithful God, we offer our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and the good works they will support, so that the world may know your wisdom and faithfulness through Christ, our Lord. 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**

\*\*This morning's liturgies were used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and from <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-1b-september-22/>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Rural Church Fellowship CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, Oct 6 starting at 11:45. The walk for hunger will begin in Kiel City Park behind St. Peter's UCC. ANYONE can walk in the event. Please see Pastor Randy if you'd like to walk and collect donations. Bethlehem's confirmation students are also participating. Please support them as you can!
  
- **The United Church Men and Women will hold their annual scholarship banquet** at St. John's UCC in Sheboygan on Thursday, October 24th at 6:30pm. WI Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert is the keynote speaker. Please see Pastor Randy for tickets. They are \$20 each.

- Ready to talk about Christmas??? We are once again organizing the “United Church Choir” to perform on Dec. 8. This a community choir with St Peter’s UCC and other area UCC churches. See Randy if interested!

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS** -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- **Harbor House of Calumet County is holding a “Light the Way” vigil** on Tuesday, Oct 1 at 5:30 pm at Klinkner Park in Chilton. Pastor Randy will be giving the closing remarks and prayer. Flyer posted.
- **Upcoming NAMI Events:** If interested, Let Pastor Randy know and he will forward you the email with registration links
  - NAMI Walk – Sat. Oct 5 – 12-2pm – Kiwanis Park, Sheboygan
- **Cardboard City 2024: Raising awareness of Homelessness in Manitowoc County** Oct 12 – 4-10pm, First Presbyterian Church, 502 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Manitowoc. For a firsthand experience, you can also sleep overnight in a cardboard box, tent, or in your car. Minimum pledge is \$20. All proceeds support agencies that assist the unhoused. See flyer for more details.
- **Ham Dinner -** Sunday, Oct 20, 11a-12:30pm – ST. James UCC- Newton – Carryout only. \$14/meal – See flyer



**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

**Those Grieving:**

Family of Doris Mae Ninmer

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Will Mathes

Jeanette Wriedt

Brad Westphalen

Art Matzdorf

Nancy Zimmermann

Gary Steinhardt

Shari

Heidi Konen

Dawson Horneck

Wanda Matzdorf

Chad Jeanty

Jessica Horneck

Jim Markelz

Marie Rietbrock

Tom Lefeber

Mary Beth Molitor

Darlene Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Ninmer

Helen Henning

## **2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

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Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

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

Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.

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

The worship service plays on the radio if you need to use it during the service!

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 9/22:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship followed by Mission and Service activities

**Monday 9/23:**

**Tuesday 9/24:** ~Happy Anniversary Ross & Lisa Westphalen!

**Wednesday 9/25:** ~Happy Birthday Robert Schnell!

**Thursday 9/26:** 8:30am Immanuel Food Pantry

**Friday 9/27:**

**Saturday 9/28:**

**Sunday 9/29:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:00 am Confirmation; 9:30am Worship

**September Pantry Items:  
Toilet Paper of Paper Towels**