



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, October 6, 2024**

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Pastor 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

***How very good and pleasant it is :: when kindred live in unity***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #550 v. 1**

**"All are Welcome"**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

The banqueting table is prepared: God calls us to feast together.

**We have come from east and west, from north and south,  
to sit together at the Lord's table.**

Compassion, love, and grace pour out like fine wine.

**God's Word is bread for our journey.**

Let us join Christians around the world to share in God's gifts.  
**Let us taste and see that the Lord is good!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Majestic God, your realm encompasses the universe, the earth, and our community. All creation declares your glory. May we unite with our kin around the world in celebrating you and the connections we share. As we gather in your name, may we remember those we join in faith, hope, and worship on every continent representing every tradition. May we declare in spirit and in truth...one bread, one body...the church striving to one as you, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Spirit are one. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: #501

"In Christ There is No East or West"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Ever present God,  
When you invite us to your table,  
you ask us to come with clean hands and clean hearts.  
You ask us to come in peace,  
seeking reconciliation with you and with one another.  
We confess that the Church has not always sought reconciliation  
within or beyond its walls.  
In this silence, we hand over to you the broken relationships,  
disagreements and disappointments  
that keep us from living in your peace.  
Free us from the burdens we carry,  
so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world  
in the name of Christ who is our peace.**

(Brief silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

From now on, St Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view.  
**If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.  
Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!**  
Know that you are forgiven and have the courage to forgive one another.  
Thanks be to our forgiving 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

**Psalm 26** – p. 607 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

### **Malachi 2:10**

Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

### **Romans 12: 16-18**

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### **1 Corinthians 1:10**

“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”

### **1 Peter 3:8**

“Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.”

### **1 John 4:12**

“No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.”

### **John 17:23**

“I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.”

## CHILDREN’S TIME

LITANY FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY (from the United Methodist Church)

**Leader:** Today, on World Communion Sunday, we remember that we are one. Today, we celebrate the Spirit of God that moves throughout God’s people across all of creation.

**People: We are one in Christ.**

**Leader:** Today we remember our responsibility to bear with one another in love, to maintain unity by the bond of peace and to be the body of Christ in the world.

**People: We are one body.**

**Leader:** Today we recall that, as members of one body, we can make a difference in a world of people in need of the hope of the love of Christ. Today, we recognize this hope that unites us and sustains us.

**People: We are people of one hope.**

**Leader:** Today we celebrate our unity. We set aside the small things that can divide us and remember that, with God, we can overcome all things. Today we are reminded that only with gentleness and humility can we clearly see God's plan for us.

**People: We are people of one Lord.**

**Leader:** Today, on World Communion Sunday, we acknowledge that we belong to God and to each other. We share the bread and the cup of Holy Communion. And through our gifts on this special Sunday, we provide scholarships and other opportunities so that people around the world can serve Jesus Christ.

**All: We are people of one God who is above all and through all.**

MINI-MESSAGE

World Communion Sunday

\*HYMN #493

"Christ's Body All are We"

PASTORAL PRAYER...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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

**Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears Lord  
And help us to listen,  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus.**

HOLY COMMUNION FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

(God's table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice, the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

HYMN #524 Verse 1

"Let us Break Bread Together"

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you;

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts;

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

It is our greatest calling and joy to give you thanks and praise, ... Therefore we join our voices with those from every time and place, to proclaim your glory in the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy is your son Jesus, O God... we recall the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

On the night he was arrested... Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Tender and Mighty God, now and forever. Amen

HYMN #524 Verse 2

“Let us Break Bread Together”

## DISTRIBUTION

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Communal God, we give you thanks that as you shared in life and death, you lead us into the resurrected life. At this table, we acknowledge your abiding presence among us. You offered us bread and cup, which we receive in remembrance and expectation of your movement in human history. Form us as your faithful community and shape us as servants and stewards of your realm. By your Holy Spirit, may your covenant reign within our hearts and manifest in the witness of our lives now and forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN #524 Verse 3

“Let us Break Bread Together”

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for the month of October supports the UCC's annual Neighbors in Need campaign)

### \*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

**Holy One, we thank you for our abundance and the privilege to share in the flourishing of our community and the world. Bless these gifts and be glorified by our generosity and trust in your provision, sufficiency, and renewing power. 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 prayers and liturgies are from: <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and [ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Bethlehem is holding a “Thanksgiving Drive” to support the clients served by Immanuel’s food pantry at Thanksgiving time. During the month of October, please bring the following items. You can also donate \$\$ or Walmart scrip cards that will be used to purchase perishable items.
  - Boxed mashed potatoes
  - Canned Green beans
  - Canned Corn
  - Canned yams
  - Jello
  - Marshmallows (for the yams)
  - Pie filling - pumpkin or apple
  - (The pantry has adequate stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, and gravy)
  
- **New Holstein First Responders raffle** – there are raffle tickets available in the fellowship hall. Please note for entry directions.
  
- **Appalachia Service Project Youth Mission Trip** (for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up) will be held June 21-28, 2025. There will be a meeting at St. Peter’s UCC on Monday, Oct 7. At 6pm. Commitment to the trip will be required at that time. Please let Pastor Randy know if you’re interested.
  
- **Adult Mission Trip Organizational Meeting** – Wednesday, October 9 – 6pm at St. Peter’s UCC. If interested and cannot attend the meeting, let Pastor Randy know.
  
- **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. (Pastor Randy will be receiving a scholarship at this meeting.) Please see Pastor Randy for tickets. They are \$20 each.

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

- **Fall Fish Fry** – Friday, October 18 – 4p-7p – Community UCC Elkhart Lake
  
- **Ham Dinner** - Sunday, Oct 20, 11a-12:30pm – ST. James UCC- Newton – Carryout only. \$14/meal – See flyer
  
- **“The Singular They”** an educational event to help persons interested in better understanding issues of gender identity will be held at Bethel UCC on October 22 at 6:30pm. Billed as “a casual safe space for adults to ask tough questions and acquire tools and information to better understand and advocate for all God’s people.”

- **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Concert** – Grace UCC – Kohler – Sunday, November 10 at 1pm. Refreshments following. See Flyer.



***Those in our thoughts and prayers:***

**Those Grieving:**

Family of Doris Mae Nimmer

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Will Mathes

Louie Bowe

Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets

Nancy Zimmermann

Brad Westphalen

Butch Waack

Jessica Horneck

Jim Markelz

Gary Steinhardt

Marie Rietbrock

Shari

Tom Lefeber

Heidi Konen

Mary Beth Molitor

Dawson Horneck

Darlene Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Nimmer

Helen Henning

**Other:** Those affected by hurricane Helene

**2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or [svoland44@gmail.com](mailto:svoland44@gmail.com)

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

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 10/6:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; 11:45 – Crop Walk @ Kiel City Park

**Monday 10/7:**

**Tuesday 10/8:** 6:30p Consistory

**Wednesday 10/9:** *Happy Anniversary Lloyd & Darlean Rumpff!*

**Thursday 10/10:**

**Friday 10/11:**

**Saturday 10/12:** *~Happy Birthday Abby Wilharms and Sharon Rumpff!*

**Sunday 10/13:** 8:00 am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Baptism

**October Pantry Items:  
Cleaning Supplies**