



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Sunday, October 13, 2024
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost
Worship Leader: Pastor 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

But you, O Lord :: do not be far away

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:
God blesses us with gifts of love,
In relationships that bring joy and gratitude.

God blesses us with talents and opportunities to serve,
All we need for faithful living.

God protects us in times of danger,
And guards us from the time of trial.

So we gather to offer thanksgiving to the Lord our God.
Praise be to God for all good things, now and always!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Everlasting God, we come before you with questions, and you question us in return. We declare that you are good, and you have declared us good. May we acknowledge that you make all things new, you redeem our days, and you empower us to be your people. In your presence, there is joy, and there is struggle. Peace surpasses understanding, and our hearts break. This defines the fullness of human community and experience in companionship with you. We give thanks for your presence and trust that you continue to transform the impossible into the possible. Make it so in us and through us in your precious name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: #283**

“Now We Thank All Our God”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of our lives,
even in these challenging times,
we know we enjoy an abundance many cannot imagine.
Yet we confess we do not always recognize these blessings.
We worry about the future,
and whether our families can flourish.
Forgive our fears of going without,
and show us how to share the goodness that is already ours.
(Brief silent reflection)**

WORDS OF GRACE

**Be at peace this day.
Jesus, our High Priest, knows the temptations of the human heart.
From the throne of grace, he offers us mercy in our weakness, to renew us in faithfulness. Thanks be to God.**

***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

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Then Job answered:

'Today also my complaint is bitter;
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.
O that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!
I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.
I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.
Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.
There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted for ever by my judge.

'If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.
God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!

Psalm 22: 1-15 – p. 603 of hymnal leader read first two lines of each stanza, congregation leads second two lines.

Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for

someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’ Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #372

“Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*This morning we welcome **Beau Daniel Hemauer** and **Dutton Dean Hemauer** into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism.*

Beau and Dutton's parents are Hunter and Chelsea Hemauer.

Beau was born on November 3, 2021. His sponsors are Shauna Ehrhardt and Hailey Schoen. Dutton was born on February 13, 2024. His sponsors are Jenna Werner and Thomas Hemauer.

INVITATION

WELCOME

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Leader: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.⁴

ADDRESS

Leader: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible ...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.⁹

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please stand)

People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he/she explores life. We enfold this child in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in telling the gospel in our midst so that this child may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ's love for all people.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God with the United Church of Christ's Statement of Faith.

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets
and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of
Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and
races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be
your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and
rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

*HYMN #516

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

PASTORAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: By your Spirit, O God,
May our friends see in us signs of a grateful heart.

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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for the month of October supports the UCC's annual Neighbors in Need campaign- Hurricane support can be donated at <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-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 God, we offer you our thanks for all the goodness we enjoy in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we bring, and use them to relieve the need and anxiety many feel these days. May anxious lives see signs of your

love and joy in what we can offer them in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and friend. 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

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.
- **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. *****Kathy has room in her car if anyone needs a ride!!***

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- **Drive-Thru Chili Supper** – Wed. Oct. 16 – 4pm-6pm – Our Shepherds UCC, Howards Grove
- **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.”
- **Drive-Thru Brat Fry** – Sunday, Nov. 3 – 11:30a-2:30pm at St. John’s UCC (Church St, New Holstein) Please pre-order by Oct 24 (920-313-0531) See Flyer
- **Fall Fare** – Sat, Nov. 9 – 9:00am-2:00pm. First Congregational in Plymouth – Craft Sale – Silent Auction – Soup to Go – Baked Goods
- **100th 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 Ninmer

Those struggling with health issues:

Will Mathes

Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets

Brad Westphalen

Jessica Horneck

Gary Steinhardt

Shari

Heidi Konen

Dawson Horneck

Louie Bowe

Nancy Zimmermann

Butch Waack

Jim Markelz

Marie Rietbrock

Tom Lefeber

Mary Beth Molitor

Darlene Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer

Helen Henning

Other: Those affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton

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

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 10/13: 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:30a WISE; 9:30am Worship w/ Baptism

Monday 10/14: ~Happy Birthday Rick Rabe!

Tuesday 10/15: Happy Anniversary Mark & Linda Riesterer!

Wednesday 10/16: ~Happy Birthday Lisa Westphalen and Darla Otto! Happy Anniversary Tom & Marie Mueller and Daniel & McKenna Rugowski!

Thursday 10/17: ~Happy Birthday Cameron Wempner!

Friday 10/18: Happy Anniversary Kyle & Brianna Pennel!

Saturday 10/19:

Sunday 10/20: 8:00 am Sunday School; 8:30 Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Worship;

****SPIRIT NEWS DUE @ 5pm**** Happy Anniversary Joe & Mary Beth Molitor!

**October Pantry Items:
Cleaning Supplies**