



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, October 5, 2025**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. RaeAnn Beebe**  
**Musician: Polly Jeanty**

*If listening from your car, please tune to 101.3 FM*

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

**CENTERING BREATH PRAYER:** as you prepare for worship, I invite you to breathe in God's Spirit. Yahweh is the ancient Hebrew name for God. As you inhale, meditate on the first part of God's name – **Yah**. As you exhale, meditate on the second part of God's name – **weh**.

**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** (Rev. Taisaku Obata, Japan. Translated by David McIntosh)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

**All: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

**All: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

**All: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.**

One: Let us repent and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

**All: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.**

**Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**Gracious God, with grateful hearts we gather to bring you praise. May your praises fill the whole earth. We are thankful for your mighty works, and for the tender care you give us. We praise you with our voices, our bodies, our instruments, ourselves. We join all of creation to give you praise. In the name of your Son, our Lord, Amen**

\*OPENING HYMN #501

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – NIV**

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by<sup>[a]</sup> one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

**John 17:20-26 - NIV**

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in

me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you <sup>[a]</sup> known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

## CHILDREN’S TIME

## SERMON

\*HYMN #528

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Additional verse: As we gather at your table, there are many without bread.

Those who hunger, yes for justice, but who also must be fed.

“Feed my sheep,” Jesus commands us, may we listen and obey.

May our prayer turn into action, may we never turn away. (Linda Noonan)

## THE LORD’S SUPPER

(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

One: Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers from above and below the equator, from the North and from Down Under, from every time zone around the globe. As today’s sunlight inches across land and sea Christians gather to celebrate their place in God’s family. All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!

One: To God be the glory: great things God has done! To prepare ourselves to partake of this Holy Meal, let us pray: Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness, isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity, shamed, yet seeking grace:

**All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.**

One: God of Justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking a generous heart, arrogant, yet seeking humility, responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

**All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.**

One: God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance, agitated, yet seeking serenity, angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

**All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.**

One: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

**All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you. This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Loving and gracious God who summons galaxies into being, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for our world. The diversity of our planet amazes us from the prairies and pampas of the Americas to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia, from the majestic mountains of Europe to the vast outback of Australia. We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity with our complexity of color and culture yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ. With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you saying:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the Highest!**

One: Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother. Amen.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

##### BLESSING OF BREAD AND CUP

One: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

**All: Bless this bread, we pray.**

One: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world.

**All: Bless this cup, we pray.**

One: May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.

#### DISTRIBUTION

## PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

One: Praise God from whom all blessings flow! With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer:

**All: Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal. Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for this day which we worship and serve you. Amen.**

COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 Refrain only "One Bread, One Body"

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all  
One cup of blessing which we bless  
And we, though many, throughout the Earth  
We are one body in this one Lord**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change supports The 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

Most loving and gracious God, we are thankful. We are thankful for your grace to us in Jesus Christ, for your gift of the church in its global witness, for the capacity to give. May these gifts help prepare the way of peace in our community around the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

\*CLOSING SONG

O for a World 372

The musical score for 'O for a World' is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987  
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839  
Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON  
CM

## BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING

(Rev. Dr. Ian Alexander, Church of Scotland)

We have been guests of Jesus Christ. We have received God's good gifts. Now we go out in the energy of the Spirit to our homes, to our neighborhoods, to our workplaces ready to put Jesus' words and being into action: to be the salt of the earth, to be light to the world, to seek justice, to make peace, to preserve the creation, to gain life for all.

The Blessing of the God we know as Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be upon us all, today and every day. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

*\*\* Portions of this morning's liturgy are adapted from Global Ministries and Peace and Global Witness resources.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ADULT MISSION TRIP 2026!  
The area UCC churches met last week and have scheduled our spring mission trip from March 22-28, 2026. The location is still pending, but if you are interested in joining the group, please let Pastor Randy know.
- The Rural Church Fellowship CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, Oct 12 starting at 11:45. The walk for hunger will begin at 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!
- Mark your calendars!!! The BUCC WISE team Christ is pleased to host guest speaker, police officer Adam Meyers. Officer Meyer's presentation will be at the Kiel Community Center (510 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Kiel) on Monday, October 20 beginning at 6pm. Officer Meyers was involved in an officer-involved shooting and the experience led to significant mental health and substance abuse challenges. Meyers will use his experience to demonstrate the importance of de-stigmatizing mental health concerns and normalizing conversations about mental health. The presentation is free of charge.
- Thursday, Oct 30 - United Church Men & Women's Scholarship Banquet – Ebenezer UCC, Sheboygan – Meal starts @ 6:30pm – Program at 7:45 with Music by Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy. The program is free. Tickets are \$20 if you want to join for the meal. See Pastor Randy for tickets. If you like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, donations are always welcome!
- Friday, October 31, 2025. – **WHAT WE SING MATTERS – A Sing-a-Long Workshop**

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Academic Dean | Professor of Worship and Preaching | Dean of the Chapel, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri -- Event Venue: Lakeland University, Bradley Auditorium, W3718 South Dr, Plymouth, WI 53073 The event is free, but please register with Pastor Randy and he will procure your tickets

## **Community Announcements**

- The Friends of Kiel Performing Arts present *Bachelors of Broadway: Gentlemen of the Theatre* on TODAY at 2:00 PM at the Kiel Performing Arts Center. Enjoy soaring harmonies and show-stopping numbers from Broadway's greatest hits. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for students and are available online at [www.cur8.com](http://www.cur8.com) (search "Kiel").
- **Gospellers Coming to Sheboygan, October 11 and 12**  
The Wisconsin Gospellers will be coming to Sheboygan on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12th. The Gospellers will be leading the 10:00 am worship service in the First Congregational UCC (FCC) sanctuary on Sun. Oct. 12th. All who like to sing are invited to join the Gospellers for the Sat. Oct. 11th music workshop that they will be hosting from 3-5 pm in the FCC sanctuary. Any questions can be directed to David Wernecke ([davidmusic1213@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmusic1213@yahoo.com)). We look forward to you joining us for this exciting opportunity.
- Friday, Oct 17 – **Fish Fry!! Dine in or carry out** – 4pm-7pm at Community UCC in Elkhart Lake – 174 N. East Street – see flyer
- Sunday, Oct 26 – 11a-2pm - **Drive-thru Brat Fry** -St. Johns UCC, New Holstein -see flyer
- Tim Keenan, (who has served as a supply pastor at BUCC), is a Christian novelist and has published several books. There will a **book signing** at St. John's UCC in Ada from 2pm-4pm on Sunday, October 26. Please see the flyer for details and for information of ordering his books.
- Join the Sheboygan County Housing Coalition on November 7th at 6 PM for an educational experience like no other. **The Night Without Shelter** is an event that aims to raise awareness and educate those within our community about homelessness. This year, we'll address common myths and misconceptions regarding homelessness and some of the underlying causes. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about organizations that serve folks experiencing homelessness, hear from individuals with lived experience, and process the experience with other participants. Finally, you'll have the opportunity to spend a night without shelter, in your car, in a tent, or simply under the stars. This a great opportunity to step into the shoes of our unhoused neighbors and learn more about what we can each do to make the world a little kinder to one another. We will also be seeking donations for winter gear and cash donations, if you feel so inclined. A portion of any proceeds will go back to St. Luke United Methodist Church, which will be our host this year. Registration can be found at this link: <https://forms.gle/ENNNczjDTtUS2dX17>



IN OUR



# Thoughts and Prayers

**Joys:**

The marriage of Julie Mueller and Mason Meyer

**Those Grieving:**

The Family of Scott Vogel

The Family of Rachel Zeinemann

The Family of Diane Hartman

The Family of Will Mathes

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Jeanette Wriedt

Louie Bowe

Heidi Konen

Darlene Horneck

Brad Westphalen

Jessica Horneck

Sofia

Melissa

Hubert

Larry

John (Friend of Schlegel's)

Dana

Chase Goekes

Lynn

Mark

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin Nimmer

Helen Henning

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 10/5:** 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Communion

**Monday 10/6:** 4pm Loads of Love

**Tuesday 10/7:**

**Wednesday 10/8:** 6pm Confirmation class

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

**Friday 10/10**

**Saturday 10/11:**

**Sunday 10/12:** 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship; 11:45 CROP Walk at St. Peters UCC

**October Panty Item: Cleaning Supplies**