



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, October 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

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 inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

Shout for joy to God :: Sing the Glory of his name

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** (Inspired by Psalm 66)

One: We celebrate the Holy One who eases our souls.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

One: We celebrate the Holy One who keeps us from slipping.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

One: We celebrate the Holy One whose steadfast love sustains us.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

*OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, Compassionate Architect,

You are the bearer of all our souls, the hope of all possibilities when walls surround us. You carve paths in mountainous regions when our roads appear blocked. You build bridges between people separated by gaps and distances. May we be ones who create channels so that your children continue to form relationships with one another and with you. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN # 29

“Bring, O Morn, Thy Music”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Holy One, Creator of All,

As your Spirit nudges people from all experiences and lands into our lives, we often turn the sign from “Come In! We’re Open!” to “Sorry, We’re Closed.” It’s easier for us to draw the curtains and remain in the shadows than open ourselves up to the light, to healing, and all the possibilities that God sends our way. May your Spirit swing open our souls to all possibilities of newness. May our unlocked minds notice the ways your presence fills our hearts with expanding love and hope. Amen. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

One: In each season of our lives, God’s grace continuously transforms our hearts. May we return our gratitude and celebrate the glory of God in our Alleluias and Amens.

All: Alleluia and Amen! Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE #565 v. 1

“Blessed be the Name of the Lord”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 (NIV)

This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Psalm 66: 1-12 (NIV)

For the director of music. A song. A psalm.

¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

² **Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.**

³ Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power
that your enemies cringe before you.

⁴ **All the earth bows down to you;
they sing praise to you,
they sing the praises of your name.”**

⁵ Come and see what God has done,
his awesome deeds for mankind!

⁶ **He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the waters on foot—
come, let us rejoice in him.**

⁷ He rules forever by his power,
his eyes watch the nations—
let not the rebellious rise up against him.

⁸ **Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;**

⁹ he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.

¹⁰ **For you, God, tested us;
you refined us like silver.**

¹¹ You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.

¹² **You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.**

Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #283

"Now We Thank All Our God"

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 At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering goes is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. October's Jingle Change supports Neighbors in Need.

*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

Divine Crafter of Joy,

Through your great works, we see your glory. Through our work together, we reflect your glory to a world of pain. May we deliver your dreams and build your Realm here on earth. Bless the work of our hearts as we move into a future filled with hope and living your visions. 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/COMMISSIONING

POSTLUDE

***liturgies for this morning were used with permission from <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/>*

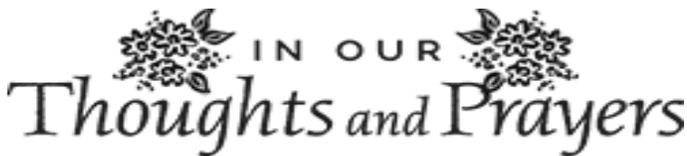
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethlehem family and friends can help provide **Thanksgiving Dinner for the Immanuel Food Pantry Clients.** The following items are needed to fill the Thanksgiving Dinner bags: 35 Boxes of Mashed Potatoes, 37 Jars of Turkey Gravy, 40 Boxes of Jello, 4 Boxes of Stuffing, 40 Bags of Marshmallows, 40 Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup, 80 Cans of Green Beans, 80 Cans of Corn, 30 Cans of Cranberry Sauce, 40 Cans of French Fried Onions, 39 Cans of Yams, and 40 Cans of Pie Filling (Apple or Pumpkin). Please bring your donations by November 16th.

- **ADULT MISSION TRIP 2026!**
The area UCC churches met last week and have scheduled our spring mission trip from March 22-28, 2026. We will be traveling to Pikeville, KY to help with damage caused by floods. If you are interested in joining the group, please let Pastor Randy know. Our next meeting is 11/2 – 6pm at Bethlehem.
- Please attend the WISE Guest Speaker, Officer Adam Meyers, at the Kiel Community Center Monday 10/20 at 6pm.

Community Announcements – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.

- **Ham Dinner** – Sunday, Oct. 19 – 11am-12:30pm – St. James UCC, Newton. Dine in or carry out.
- Sunday, Oct 26 – 11a-2pm - **Drive-thru Brat Fry** -St. Johns UCC, New Holstein
- **Kiel Municipal Band Scholarship Concert**
Celebrate music and mentorship at the Kiel Performing Arts Center on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 PM! This grand finale of the Friends of Kiel Performing Arts 2025 Series supports the Edgar P. Thiessen Scholarship, helping local high school seniors pursue their dreams. Tickets at www.cur8.com (search “Kiel”). Let’s pack the house with heart and harmony!



Those Grieving:

The Family of Jeanette Wriedt
The Family of Scott Vogel
The Family of Will Mathes

Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Brad Westphalen	Jessica Horneck
Sofia	Melissa
Hubert	Larry
John (Friend of Schlegel's)	Dana
Chase Goekes	Lynn
Mark	Darya

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 10/19: 8:00am Sunday School; 8:30am Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Sunday Worship; 6pm Youth Leadership @ St. Peters UCC

Monday 10/20: 6pm WISE Speaker at Kiel Community Center; *Happy Anniversary Joe & MaryBeth Molitor*

Tuesday 10/21:

Wednesday 10/22: ***Spirit Articles due by 5pm***

Thursday 10/23: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry;

Friday 10/24: *Happy Anniversary Melissa & Randy Koppenhaver!*

Saturday 10/25:

Sunday 10/26: 8:00am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship;

October Panty Item: Cleaning Supplies

We are officially
designated as a WISE
congregation as of
October 15!!!

