



BETHLEHEM UNITED

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Musician: Kathy Bowe

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

***= 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

Protect me O God :: for in you I take refuge

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

**O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God calls us to seek justice:

Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.

God calls us to show kindness,

Let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and despair.

God calls us to walk humbly in the Spirit,

**Let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and hope.
Called, blessed and inspired, let us worship God together.**

***OPENING PRAYER:**

**God of wisdom and blessing,
In you we find shelter in the strength of your promises;
we find welcome in your tender care,
and we find meaning in your calling in our lives.
Grateful for the protection you provide,
thankful for the comfort of your community,
we offer you our praise and worship.
For you give blessings when the world condemns;
you bring freedom when the culture confines, and
you bring peace when circumstances are chaotic.
Embrace us with your love and inspire and strengthen us
to love you and others in the world you love,
through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN #401**

“The Beatitudes”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**God of the ages,
we confess the world’s wisdom attracts us,
even when its promises are hollow;
and we fail to measure messages according to
the wisdom in your Word.
We find calls to do justice too demanding,
and we look to our own interests first.
Forgive us, we pray.
Renew us with your mercy,
so that we may walk more humbly with you and each other day by day.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
Though God knows our failings, forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice
and be glad for his renewing love. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

***RESPONSE #82 v1**

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Micah 6:1-8 (CEB)

Hear what the Lord is saying:
 Arise, lay out the lawsuit before the mountains;
 let the hills hear your voice!

² Hear, mountains, the lawsuit of the Lord!
 Hear, eternal foundations of the earth!
 The Lord has a lawsuit against his people;
 with Israel he will argue.

³ “My people, what did I ever do to you?
 How have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ I brought you up out of the land of Egypt;
 I redeemed you from the house of slavery.
 I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam before you.

⁵ My people, remember what Moab’s King Balak had planned,
 and how Balaam, Beor’s son, answered him!
 Remember everything^[a] from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you might learn to recognize the righteous acts of the Lord!”

⁶ With what should I approach the Lord
 and bow down before God on high?
 Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings,
 with year-old calves?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with many torrents of oil?
 Should I give my oldest child for my crime;
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit?

⁸ He has told you, human one, what is good and
 what the Lord requires from you:
 to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Psalm 15 - p. 596 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read evens

Matthew 5:1-12 (CEB)

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. ² He taught them, saying:

³ “Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ “Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad.

⁵ “Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full.

⁷ “Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God.

⁹ “Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God’s children.

¹⁰ “Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. ¹² Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE “Calm my Fear” Faith and Rhythm Music

SERMON

*HYMN #309

“Micah 6:8”

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

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

Together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You. Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and ever expanding. May it be so.

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 #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us
grace.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Tune: Doxology

**Oh God, may we who bear your name, By gentle love your grace proclaim.
Christ's gift of peace on earth declare, And your anointing Spirit share.
Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Life, from you all loving kindness, justice and mercy flow. Bless
these gifts so that acts of kindness, justice and mercy flow from them, too.
And bless our lives so the world may see in us signs of your kingdom at
work in the church and community, in Christ's name. 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 and prayers for this morning were used with permission from:*

<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

Today's communion liturgy was from <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-epiphany-4a-february-1/>

Bethlehem Announcements:

Chili Supper 2026

Many opportunities to volunteer with upcoming Chili Supper. Even an hour makes a difference.

- Sunday, Feb 1 – after worship service – set up and cook meat
- Tuesday, Feb 3 – 8 am to noon – cook noodles
- Wednesday, Feb 4 – 6 am to finish – cook, serve, deliver and cleanup

Always looking for efficiencies and improvements. Reminder the proceeds are split between groups and organization for their projects, programming and missions.

- Bethlehem family and friends, please join us on **Sunday, February 22nd for a family ice fishing outing on Wilke Lake**. We will gear up and head out for a fun day on the lake after church service on 2/22/26 (10:30 am).

Parking will be at Scott & Jane Umland's residence (thank you!) at:

10411 Glen Flora Rd.
Kiel, WI 53042

OR

Public Boat Launch
Located off of Point Creek Rd.
(By Hennings Cheese)

We will plan on fishing from approximately 11:00 am until 2:00'ish (or however long you want to stay out on the lake). Live bait will be provided (wax worms & minnows). We will grill hamburgers, brats, & hotdogs on the lake for lunch (beverages will be BYOB).

Remember to bring your warm clothes, fishing gear, DNR fishing license, and good spirits. We hope that mother nature will bless us with a nice winter day, and everyone can have fun on the ice.

Everyone is welcome to attend (fishing gear or not, we will provide gear for anyone that does not have any).

If you have further questions; please contact Lee Watson (920) 562-0588 (text/call) or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

- The mission trip will take place March 22-28. We will travel to eastern Kentucky to serve God's people who were subject to flooding last year. The cost is \$90 for lodging + travel expenses. Members of several area UCC churches will be going and we'd love YOU to join us! Our final participant list needs to be submitted by March 1. Please commit asap. Contact Pastor Randy with questions.
- The annual meeting for the WI conference of the UCC, will be held April 10 & 11 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake. Bethlehem is allotted two delegates from the membership. It's a time of worship, business meetings, seminars and more. There are funds allocated in the budget to cover your costs. Please contact Pastor Randy if you're interested in attending - even if just for ONE of the days!

• **Up Coming Events!!**

- Sunday, Feb 8 – New member Sunday! - Fellowship and food to follow. See Pastor Randy if you're not a member but would like to be!
- Wednesday, Feb. 18 – 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Communion
- Sunday, Feb 15 – 1pm RCF Sheepshead event at BUCC
- Sat, Feb 21 – 2p-4p Youth Olympic watch party – location TBD
- Sunday, Feb 22 – 11am BUCC Ice fishing on Wilke Lake
- Sunday March 1 – Potluck and “Game Day” to follow worship

‘SOUP’ER BOWL SUNDAY!!! One-week food drive! Bring your canned food items to church on Feb. 8 and place them on the side of the table that represents the team you’re rooting for!

Community Announcements:

- Sunday, Feb. 1 – Chili Cook-Off – 12p-2pm – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – Free will donations support the Kiel Area Good Samaritan Fund.
- Friday, Feb 20 – Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry- (11928 Marken Rd. – School Hill) Dine-in from 3:30-7pm. Carry-outs available 11a-1p and 3:30-7:00pm by calling 920-773-2380. Grilled cheese also available. (See flyer for more details.)



Those Grieving:

Family of Luella Emily Rogers Mauro (Pastor Roy’s mother)

Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Jackie Voland
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Eileen Koppenhaver
Margaret	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 2/1: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship followed by Chili Supper prep; *Happy Birthday Tammy Aschenbach!*

Monday 2/2: *Happy Birthday Sarah Schisel and Jennifer Holz!!*

Tuesday 2/3: 8am cook noodles for Chili Supper

Wednesday 2/4: Bethlehem Chili Supper 3-6pm

Thursday 2/5:

Friday 2/6: *Happy Birthday Brandon Hoban!*

Saturday 2/7: *Happy Anniversary Mike & Judy Brockway!*

Sunday 2/8: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship w/ New Member Induction – refreshments to follow.

Jan/Feb Panty Item: Can of Soup

