



Welcome
Our *New*
Members

BETHLEHEM UNITED

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth 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

Praise the Lord :: happy are those who fear God

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:

Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

So God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

We gather, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder;

trusting that God's peace and love are present here.

Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.
We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

*OPENING PRAYER:

**Holy One, Light of the world, Almighty God,
in whom we live, and trust and hope,
at the beginning of creation, you called order out of chaos
and formed the sun and moon and stars to shine in the darkness
and to lighten the way.
And you call us and give us a purpose and vocation
and you strengthen us to follow you.
So turn us now from our ways of chaos and discontent
to follow your ways of justice, wisdom and grace
through Christ Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen**

*OPENING HYMN #153 "We are Marching" (dancing, singing, praying)

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

God, you are kind and gracious, slow to be angry and quick to forgive
and so, we confess to you our sins:

**Holy One,
we confess we have taken your creation for granted,
we squander its resources and
we consume selfishly and carelessly.
In your mercy, forgive us, we pray, and make us
more and more a people of your purposes. Amen** (time of silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Christ is the first born of creation, shining a redeeming light into the darkness of
human sin. In him we are forgiven, restored and made new.

Thanks be to God! We can make a fresh start today.

*RESPONSE #82 v1

"O Come Let Us Adore Him"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 58:1-9a (NIV)

"Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

² For day after day they seek me out;

they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.
3 'Why have we fasted,' they say,
'and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?'
"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness^[a] will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.
9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Psalm 112 – p.693 in hymnal - leader reads odd verses, the people read even

Matthew 5:13-20 (NIV)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #154

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

*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.

ADDRESS

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

*WELCOME AND RECEPTION:

One: Let us, the members of Bethlehem United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

PRAYER

CLOSING One: Go in the peace of Christ. **All: Thanks be to God! Amen**

*RESPONSE #497 v. 1 & 3

“Blest be the Tie that Binds”

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 the Sunday School's Leprosy project

*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

In glad thanksgiving for your goodness and all the blessings we know in this life, we pray your blessing on us and these gifts that we and them may be used for the building up of your reign in the world. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray, 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/>*

Bethlehem Announcements:

- 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!
- **BUCC Breakfast Club!** - Our first gathering will take place on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Riverview Restaurant at 8:30am. All are welcome! Join us for food and fellowship! Please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship fall by Sunday, Feb. 21 so we can let them know how many are coming.
- **Up Coming Events!!**
 - 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 @ St. Peter's UCC
 - Sunday, Feb 22 – 11am BUCC Ice fishing on Wilke Lake
 - Saturday, Feb 28 – BUCC Breakfast Club 8:30am @ Riverview
 - Sunday March 1 – Potluck and "Game Day" to follow worship

Community Announcements:

- Feb 11 & 25 – 8:30-11:30am **Board Game group** at St. Marks UCC – Orchard Rd. Cleveland. See the flyer for details.

- 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.)
- Sat. April 18 – 9a-1pm – “Stewardship of the Body” – A workshop for women – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holstein – see flyer

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

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 Volland
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 2/8: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship w/ New Member Reception- refreshments to follow.

Monday 2/9: *Happy Birthday Zander Jeanty!*

Tuesday 2/10:

Wednesday 2/11: *Happy Birthday Aaron Suttner!*

Thursday 2/12:

Friday 2/13:

Saturday 2/14: *Happy Anniversary Jerry & Carol Wehrmann!*

Sunday 2/15: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday worship; 1p-3p RCF Sheepshead Tourney at BUCC; 5pm Spirit Articles Due

Jan/Feb Panty Item: Can of Soup

