



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, October 1, 2023

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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

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

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The banqueting table is prepared and God calls us to the feast.

We have come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at Christ's table.

Here compassion, love, and grace pour out like fine wine.

Here we taste the bread of life, bread for our journey.

There are gifts of God for all the people of God.

Let us taste and see that the Lord is good!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Steadfast God, as the seasons change, we see that you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts and situations. You have shown us the true face of power in Jesus Christ, reaching out with healing and hope to touch desperate lives. We praise you for your love that works for reconciliation

among neighbors and nations in this divided world. May we see the face of Jesus as we break bread at his table. Renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us, so that we can live to praise you with the whole Church that bears Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #501 all

"In Christ There is No East or West"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that too many times, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolence and have mistreated those in need and with judgment. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing to you, Oh Lord. We ask your mercy on us. Amen!

Time of reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE

Jesus has already paid for your transgressions, and we are free because Jesus Christ, our Savior, has made His grace accessible to us. People of God, your sins are forgiven.
Glory be to Him! Amen!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

SERMON

*HYMN #525

"One Bread, One Body"

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

(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

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you;

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our calling and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with those from every time and place,

to proclaim your glory in the unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy is your son, Jesus... Every time we eat this bread and share this cup in Jesus' name, we recall the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have nourished us in this meal,
and fed our bodies and souls.**

We have heard your love; now send us out to speak it.

We have seen your love; now send us out to show it.

**We have been fed by your love; now send us out to share it.
and let all things be done for your glory. Amen.**

COMMUNION RESPONSE #536 v2 "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"

*Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.*

Refrain 2x: Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: "Lord in your mercy, **hear our 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of October supports the UCC's Neighbor's in Need offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 282**

"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**

Holy One, we ask that you bless these offerings and tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept our offerings and tithes, O God, as a testimony of your goodness in our lives. 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.***

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Food Drive! Bethlehem is holding a food drive for the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry during the month of October. A list of requested items is located near the drop off box at the front door. Thank you for your support.

Singers invited!!

Area UCC churches are again assembling a "Community Choir" for a holiday concert at St. Peter's UCC on Dec. 10 at 3:30pm. Bethlehem members are invited to practice with other area UCC choirs beginning in October. Please let Pastor Randy know if you'd like to participate.

CROP Walk

Crop Walk starts and ends at Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove
Registration 12:00-12:30, leaving for walk at 12:30. Walk will go down the streets and through the woods and then streets returning. Estimated return around 2:00 with a campfire and hotdogs and s'mores to follow. Yard games are encouraged. Bring your own chairs, encouraged hot dog roasters and games. Online donations will go directly to Church World Service, cash and checks will support local pantries.

Mission Fest – Sunday, October 8th - *Lunch will be provided for everyone participating.*

- Don't forget to sign up for next week's Mission activities:
- Assembling Period Packs
- Making sandwiches for Mission House
- Highway clean-up
- Playing BINGO at an assisted living facility

Youth Event!! Sunday, Oct 29 - 5p-7pm

Fall fun! Campfire...Pumpkin Games... Food..."Ghost in the Graveyard"
Hosted by Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 11608 Lax Chapel Rd, Kiel

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@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

Community Announcements:

- A "Stepping On" workshop will be offered at the Kiel Community Center on Tuesday's Oct. 3-Nov. 14th from 12:45-2:45pm. (\$10 suggested registration) Call the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore to register. 1-877-416-7083. The workshop is geared towards safety and fall prevention.
- Tues. Oct. 3 – Illuminate Hope: Candlelight Vigil for Domestic Abuse Awareness Month – 5:30-7pm – Klinkner Park - Chilton
- Wed. Oct 4 - Drive-Thru Chili Supper @ Bethel UCC – 11a-6:30pm
- Fri. Oct. 6 – Drive-Thru Fish Fry @ Anchor Lanes – 4p-7p Hosted by Community UCC, Elkhart Lake
 - Ham Dinner at St. James UCC (Newton) Sun., Oct. 15 11am-12:30pm CARRY OUTS ONLY. Dinner includes ham, German potato salad, corn, applesauce, coleslaw, dinner roll and pumpkin or apple pie. Cost = \$14 per meal.
 - The Annual United Church Men & Women's Scholarship Banquet will be on Thursday, October 19 @ 6:30pm at St. James UCC, Spring Valley. See Pastor Randy for more info or to purchase tickets. (\$18)



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

- The marriage of Sarah Mueller and John Schisel – 9/16/23
- The baptism of Carter Dean Schisel on 9/17/23
- The birth of Nova Rosalyn Henning on Aug 23, 2023

Families who have lost loved ones:

Courtney Krebsbach

Those struggling with health issues:

Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Crystal (Friend of Randy/Melissa)	Brenda Volland
Neal (Louie's Brother)	Molly
	Mary Beth Molitor

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by Hawaiian wildfires.

Those affected by hurricanes and tropical storms.

Those affected by recent gun violence, especially in Florida.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 10/1: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

Monday 10/2: 5pm Loads of Love

Tuesday 10/3:

Wednesday 10/4: 6pm Confirmation class; ~*Happy Birthday Kerry Henning!*

Thursday 10/5:

Friday 10/6:

Saturday 10/7:

Sunday 10/8: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Shortened Worship followed by Mission Fest

**October Pantry Items:
Cleaning Supplies**