



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration Sunday
Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver
Organist: 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

Great is our Lord :: abundant is His power

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: #55

"Sanctuary"

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

***OPENING PRAYER:**

***OPENING HYMN #**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

(time of silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

MEDITATION Monologue: Peter and the Transfiguration (www.rootsontheweb.com)

*HYMN #

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...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.

OFFERTORY (Jingle change goes to the Sunday School's Leprosy Collection)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Tune "Old Hundredth"

**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

*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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethlehem UCC is hosting a free presentation on Advanced Directives on Tuesday, Feb 27th at 6:30pm. Representatives from Froedtert Medical will be explaining the importance of living wills and medical powers of attorney. If you were suddenly unable to make your own medical decisions and didn't have advanced directives legally in place, your medical decisions would be made by the courts. Other important "end of life" decisions should be put in place as well. The legal paperwork from the state of Wisconsin will be available. All are encouraged to attend.
- The Second Annual *Rural Church Fellowship Sheepshead Tournament* will be held on Sunday, Feb 18 at 1pm @ Bethlehem. Admission is a non-perishable food item. All proceeds benefit area food pantries.

Merry Christian's Heifer Auction a Success!

The Bethlehem Merry Christians of Bethlehem U.C.C. in rural Kiel held their annual fund-raising program for Heifer International during December. Individuals from the church and the wider community gave generously to raise \$3100 to send live animals and other agricultural items to individuals in countries around the world.

These gifts are given to help individuals become self-sufficient in poor countries everywhere. Those who receive the gift animals also give others like themselves the first born of their own gift to widen the donation.

That \$3100 gift to Heifer International provided the following gifts to individuals in countries like Nepal, Zambia, and Mexico. Bethlehem's donation will be 2 heifers, 3 sheep, 3 goats, 2 Alpacas, 2 pigs, 3 hives of honeybees, 10 flocks of chickens, 1 clean water well and 5 complete sets of garden seeds.

Heifer International hears from people world-wide whose lives have been changed through these gifts. The Merry Christians are grateful for the generosity of the church and the community in supporting this cause.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 23rd Annual Holy Trinity Perch Fry – Friday, February 16 at 11928 Marten Rd in School Hill. Dine-in serving from 3:30-7pm. Carry-outs available from 11a-1p and 3:30 -7:00p by calling 773-2380. Grilled cheese plates also available. Homemade tortes, raffle tickets, and the HT lounge.
- InCourage Domestic Abuse Shelter of Manitowoc is hosting a charity event on Sat. Feb 24 – info on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- Sunday, Feb. 25 - Soup Cook-Off – Supporting the youth mission trip of area UCC churches – enter a soup – be a "taster" – details on the table in the Fellowship Hall.
- Mission and service opportunity: Feed my Starving Children – March 8 and 9 @ First United Lutheran Church – Sheboygan. Info on "Missions" bulletin board.

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@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



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Those struggling with health issues:

Mason Kannell	Jaxxen Kane
Sarah Arnold	Tom Brickbauer
Heidi Konen	Marie Rietbrock
Brenda Voland	Daisy Sippel
Darlene Horneck	Renee
Helen Henning	Dana
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Jessica Horneck	Crystal
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Elizabeth Quackenboss (Nicole Watson's Gmother)	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those displaced by the recent apartment fire in Kiel.

Those affected by wars in Israel and Ukraine, and others globally.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 2/4: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; Chili Supper prep following

Monday 2/5:

Tuesday 2/6: ~Happy Birthday Brandon Hoban!

Wednesday 2/7: CHILI SUPPER 3pm-6:30pm; ~Happy Anniversary Mike & Judy Brockway

Thursday 2/8:

Friday 2/9: ~Happy Birthday Zander Jeanty!

Saturday 2/10:

Sunday 2/11: 8am Sunday School; 8:30a Book Study; 9:30am Worship; WISE mtg after worship ~Happy Birthday Aaron Suttner!

February Pantry Items:

Box of Sandwich Bags, Garbage Bags, Plastic Wrap or Foil

Thank you, members of Bethlehem and select organizations, for supporting the trip to our Confirmation retreat on Jan. 19 and 20 at Daycholah!

The most meaningful part of the retreat, for me, was making new friends from other churches. I also liked the collage project, since it was a great way to remind myself who I am and what I value. I also learned a lot from the “game of life” about how life isn’t always going to be easy, so you have to find ways to work around the hard parts of life. –Aliyah Arnold

During the confirmation retreat, the experience went really well and better than expected. This wasn't just because of the food, (I mean, the food was very, very good - don't get me wrong), but because of all the great experiences and friends I made in that short period of time. Some of these great experiences were the game of life, which helped me learn about the challenges life can have, and the collage which made me think about who I truly am as a person. There were also some other mini lessons that taught me more about how trusting God even through tough times can make it easier through those times. Oh, and the food was also great, with an all-you-can-eat buffet with everything from meals to desserts! –Tyson Arnold

I enjoyed the retreat and it was a great experience. I liked that we learned about God while also having fun. We played many good games and did activities to get to know each other better and meet new people. We did devotions and learned different stories about God. Each pastor did a different activity to learn about God and his people. We each brought an item to represent ourselves and it was cool to see what other people enjoyed. We also did a magazine wheel (collage) to show what we enjoyed doing. – Courtney Riesterer