



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, September 15, 2024
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

Worship Leader: Rev. Darren Beachy

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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

I fear no evil :: for you are with me

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:

Come, people of God, worship the One who listens to our prayers.

We will worship the One who hears us.

Come, people of God, worship the One who watches over us.

We will worship the One who cares deeply for us all.

Come, people of God, worship the One who offered his life for us.
We will offer thanks and praise to the One who gives us life.

*OPENING PRAYER:

Living God, you are the artist of the changing skies and architect of the steadfast earth, Loving Christ, you were born to walk life's journey with us and show us God's purposes. Spirit of life, you are always moving in us and among us, offering us wisdom for every choice. Creator, Christ and Spirit, we honour you in our prayers and our praise. In this time of worship, show us how we can serve you, for we seek your guidance and your grace now and always. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: #39

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

**God of time and eternity,
we confess that we have long memories,
especially for moments we resent or regret.
Each week we seek your forgiveness for our mistakes,
but we confess we do not forgive others so faithfully.
Sometimes we seek opportunity to even the score.
Confront us with your mercy, O God,
and open our hearts to its cleansing power.
(Brief silent reflection)**

WORDS OF GRACE

From now on, the Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
Through Christ God has reconciled us, and given us a ministry of reconciliation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start, this day and every day!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #358

"Only Believe"

**Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe;
Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 3:1-10

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree

in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.” ’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

SERMON

“Fear Factor”

*HYMN #353

“Be Thou My Vision”

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: Jesus challenged his disciples to take up the cross and follow him. Whatever we offer him speaks of how we take up his challenge in our time. So give with grateful, loyal hearts.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change for the month of September supports the Rural Church Fellowship's CROP WALK)

*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

Generous God, you poured out your love for us through Jesus Christ, who gave up everything on the cross. We bring what we have to offer you in love and loyalty. Receive our gratitude and bless all that our gifts can do to share your love for Christ's sake. 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

POSTLUDE

**This morning's liturgies were used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy will be out of the state through Sept. 17. Please contact Pastor Nicole of St. Peter's UCC with any pastoral care needs. (920-242-8308)
- Sunday Sept. 22 - Sign up for Mission and Service Sunday projects in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be served!
- The Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night** will be Tuesday, September 17th. Our Guest Speaker will be Steve Hamer, President of Wash for Life. Wash for Life is a nonprofit organization that installs wells (boreholes) at schools and villages in Malawi, Africa so they can access clean water. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light lunch and speaker to follow. Lunch will consist of broasted chicken, rolls, salads and dessert. The congregation and the community are invited to join us. Please invite your family and friends!! All are welcome! There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- The United Church Men and Women will hold their annual scholarship banquet** at St. John's UCC in Sheboygan on Thursday, October 24th at 6:30pm. WI Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert is the keynote speaker. Please see Pastor Randy for tickets. They are \$20 each.
- On **Mission and Service Sunday** in September, we will be putting together disaster clean up kits for Church World Service. An example kit has been created. If you wish to contribute, please buy the EXACT item.
- Ready to talk about Christmas??? We are once again organizing the “United Church Choir” to perform on Dec. 8. This a community choir with St Peter's UCC and other area UCC churches. See Randy if interested!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS -See flyers in fellowship hall for more details

- **Oktoberfest!!** – Sat. Sept 21 – 4p-8p - @ Kiel City Park – Food! Beer! Music!
Hosted by St. Peter's UCC
- **Upcoming NAMI Events:** If interested, Let Pastor Randy know and he will forward you the email with registration links
 - NAMI Walk – Sat. Oct 5 – 12-2pm – Kiwanis Park, Sheboygan
- **Cardboard City 2024: Raising awareness of Homelessness in Manitowoc County** Oct 12 – 4-10pm, First Presbyterian Church, 502 N. 8th Street, Manitowoc. For a firsthand experience, you can also sleep overnight in a cardboard box, tent, or in your car. Minimum pledge is \$20. All proceeds support agencies that assist the unhoused. See flyer for more details.



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

The return of children's voices in the classrooms!

Those Grieving:

Family of Doris Mae Nimmer

Those struggling with health issues:

Will Mathes

Jeanette Wriedt

Brad Westphalen

Art Matzdorf

Nancy Zimmermann

Gary Steinhardt

Shari

Heidi Konen

Dawson Horneck

Wanda Matzdorf

Chad Jeanty

Jessica Horneck

Jim Markelz

Marie Rietbrock

Tom Lefeber

Mary Beth Molitor

Darlene Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer

Helen Henning

2024 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

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

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Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com

Get Comfortable! Bethlehem has a new “lounge” located in the middle Sunday School room. Comfortable seating! Coffee! Books and Games!

Feel free to relax or meet for conversation.

Before church - After church – While your kids are at Sunday School!

The worship service plays on the radio if you need to use it during the service!

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 9/15: 8:00 am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Anniversary Louie & Kathy Bowe!

Monday 9/16: Happy Anniversary John & Sarah Schisel!

Tuesday 9/17: 5:30p Bethlehem Ladies Guest Night; ~Happy Birthday Courtney Riesterer!

Wednesday 9/18: 6pm Confirmation Mtg w/ Parents and Mentors; **SPIRIT NEWS DUE**

Thursday 9/19: ~Happy Anniversary Hunter & Chelsea Hemauer!

Friday 9/20: ~Happy Birthday Bonnie Hoban!

Saturday 9/21:

Sunday 9/22: 8:00 am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship following by Mission and Service activities

**September Pantry Items:
Toilet Paper of Paper Towels**