



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Leader: Pastor 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

You, O Lord, are my hope :: my trust from my youth

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #555

“Sanctuary”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 71)

One: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.

One: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.

One: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.

*OPENING PRAYER

Emmanuel, we welcome you in our midst. You amaze and inspire, challenge and convict, comfort and fortify. May we be open and receptive to your voice and presence among us. Let your words encourage us to be prophetic, passionate, and public in our ministry as we praise and honor your name. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #349

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God, whose name is love, we confess our faults and failings, knowing you know us through and through.

You tell us that love is patient and kind,

and you know when our patience and kindness fall short.

You tell us love is never rude or selfish,

and you see the times we insist on our own way.

Forgive us the excuses we make to ourselves when our love falters.

Strengthen us by your Spirit so that our love is genuine and reliable. Amen.

(Time of reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God’s love;

as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins.

Thanks be to God whose love and forgiveness are steadfast.

May we be steadfast in our forgiveness of one another. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #82 v. 1 “O Come let us Adore Him”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 - The Gift of Love

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #532

"Come Share the Lord"

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

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #534 - Refrain only

“Fill my Cup, Lord”

PRAYER CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: “God of Love, **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.

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #403 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE To tune of the 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 and love, we are grateful for all you have given us in Christ and in creation, in community and in the Church that bears Jesus' name. We offer our gifts to you in love, trusting you will bless them and us. May all that we offer become tangible expressions of your love at work in the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. 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

**This morning's prayers and liturgies are used with permission from: ucc.org and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chili Supper 2025

There are many opportunities to volunteer with our upcoming Chili Supper. Even an hour makes a difference.

- Sunday, Feb 2 – after worship service – set up and cook meat
- Tuesday, Feb 4 – 8 am to noon – cook noodles
- **Wednesday, Feb 5** – 6 am to finish – cook, serve, deliver and cleanup

We are always looking for efficiencies and improvements. Reminder the proceeds are split between groups and organizations for their project and missions.

- Stay informed!!! Did you know that Bethlehem sends out a weekly email update called The Bethlehem Blurb? If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send a message to randynmel5@gmail.com or BethUCCKiel@outlook.com.
- Dear Members of Bethlehem: Thank you so much for all your love and support as I have journeyed through the discernment process. I look forward to celebrating my ordination with you on **February 15 at 1:00pm**. It is my privilege to be your pastor! – Randy
- Packets of 10 tickets for the 2025 Chili Supper are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign out for packets which you can sell. Payment is due by February 5, 2025.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- St Mark's/St. James Mission Trip Team Brat Fry at Miesfeld's 9am-2pm on Saturday, February 15th.
- Rural Church Fellowship's Sheepshead Tournament, 1-3pm at Bethlehem UCC on Sunday, February 16th
- 24th Annual Holy Trinity Parish Perch Fry – Friday, Feb 21, 2025 – School Hill – Dine in serving from 3:30-7pm, Carry-outs from 11a-1p and 3:30p-7p – call 773-2380 to order carryout. Grilled cheese plates, tortes, and raffle tickets also available.
- Saturday, March 8 – InCourage Annual Domestic Chef Charity event – 4pm – 10pm - See flyer for details

- March 14 and 15 – Volunteer for “Feed my Starving Children” MobilePak event – First United Lutheran Church of Sheboygan. To register, see informational flyers on the mission bulletin board.
- You can help support the CA wildfire victims at: <https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025>



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Those Grieving:

Those struggling with health issues:

Will Mathes	Julie and Addison
Jill Wehmeyer-Sheets	Heidi Konen
Brad Westphalen	Emily (Melissa’s cousin)
Jessica Horneck	Kurt (Randy’s cousin)
Marie Rietbrock	Darlene Horneck
Tom Lefeber	Mary Beth Molitor
Dana	Dawson Horneck
	Jason

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer	Helen Henning
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2025 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
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 Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net
 Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com
 Pastor - Randy Kopenhagen (920)286-2531 _randynmel5@gmail.com

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 2/2: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion; Cook meat and prep for Chili Supper; *Happy Birthday Sarah Schisel and Jennifer Holz!!*

Monday 2/3:

Tuesday 2/4: Cook Noodles! *Happy Birthday Lora Mathes and Gary Rabe!!*

Wednesday 2/5: 3pm-6pm ****Chili Supper****

Thursday 2/6:

Friday 2/7:

Saturday 2/8: *Happy Birthday Tammy Aschenbach and Rhonda Otto!!*

Sunday 2/9: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00a Confirmation Class; 9:30am Worship *Happy Birthday Sarah Schisel and Jennifer Holz!!*

February Pantry Items:

Box of Sandwich bags, Ziplocs, Foil, Saran Wrap or Garbage bags