



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: WISE Committee members

Musician: 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

Be my rock of refuge, O Lord :: to which I can always go

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

As we gather may your spirit work within us

As we gather may we glorify your name

Knowing well that as our heart begin to worship

We'll be blessed because we came; We'll be blessed because we came

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

You who feel tired –

Come and worship the God who loves you.

You who feel overwhelmed –

Come and worship the God loves you.

You who feel hopeless –

Come and worship the God who loves you.

There is hope, rest, and peace here for you.

*OPENING PRAYER:

God of joy, In the midst of chaos, you are calm. In the midst of uncertainty, you are constant; In the midst of worry, you are trustworthy. In the midst of despair, you are living hope. We are here to praise you. We are here to learn about your love. We are here to regain our hope.

*OPENING HYMN #277

“This is the Day”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Leader: Breath of God, blow though us clean and holy, warm us with courage and joy as we open ourselves to offer our confession and also receive your forgiveness. Accept our common confession, as we pray together:

Holy God, Sometimes, we feel alone, and we wonder if you are real and really alive. Sometimes, the world around us is overwhelming, And we waver in the goodness that you have promised will prevail. Sometimes, it seems like no one else around us goes to church, and we think faith might be foolish. Renew our faith and our hope. Remind us, always, of Christ’s boundless and unwavering compassion for the world, for our neighbors and for ourselves. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

Here is our hope: God’s mercies are new everyday. In God’s love we always have a fresh start. God never gives up on us or abandons us. Never.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. So, let us be at peace today. Be at peace with God. Be at peace with our neighbors. And even be at peace with ourselves. Amen

*RESPONSE (tune: Doxology) “Be Thou, O God Exalted High”

**Be thou, O God exalted high; And as Thy glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth displayed, 'Til Thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 40:31

but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Psalm 121 – p. 704 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

Micah 7:7

⁷ But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,
I wait for God my Savior;
my God will hear me.

LITANY OF HOPE

We have been born into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

This living hope changes and grows with us, day by day year by year

We know that hope can be a crescendo: starting off soft and timid, but gaining confidence whenever we come together in the Spirit, finding and sharing God's good news as we worship, play, and work.

Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back.

We recognize that hope can be hidden and mysterious, sometimes barely a whisper. We have to be still to sense its comforting and encouraging presence.

Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back.

We proclaim that hope can be bold and audacious celebrating and partying loud and courageous inspiring us to faithful action

Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back.

We affirm that hope is always there: God's shout or whisper, a companion on the journey spread out like a blanket for the feast of faith.

Our hope comes from God, nothing can hold us back. May it be so.

*HYMN#356

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

MESSAGE

Susan Beattie of Pathways to a Better Life

*HYMN #311

"We Shall Overcome"

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with "God 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

#403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: On this Labor Day weekend, we offer to God the fruit of our labor to support the redeeming work God has begun in the world. Give in hope and in trust that God will accomplish more than we can ask or imagine through our gifts.

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change supports WISE)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #447 v.1 "All Things are Yours"

All things are yours! We make that true, when we return our gifts to you. And so we give, and so we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, As you fuel us with hope, help us to fuel others with your hope. May these gifts we collect tonight offer hope to those who feel

hopeless, send a message of beloved-ness to those who feel lonely or afraid, and help transform the world into a kinder, more just, and more joyful place, just like you know it can be. 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 from **Romans 15:13**

Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us leave this place filled with the peace of Christ.

POSTLUDE

**Liturgies and worship elements used with permission from: https://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Audacious-Hope-Worship-Liturgy_2024.pdf

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ☐ Pastor Randy will be on vacation Aug 30-Sept. 7. In the event pastoral care is needed, call Pastor Nicole Herda 920-242-8308
- ☐ Blessing of the Backpacks will be on Sunday, Sept 14. Everyone is invited to bring their backpacks, bookbags, workbags, etc!
- ☐ Thank you to all who helped make the annual church rummage sale a success. Watch the September Spirit for more details.
- ☐ For Sale: (2) Patio Sets - Includes table (3' 2" X 3' 2") with 4 chairs (cushions included) \$50.00 - displayed in new garage
- ☐ During the month of **August**, the Bethlehem Ladies will have a special collection of items for the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry and will be presented to the pantry at our Guest Night on Tuesday, September 16th. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance. Thank you for your generosity!!!

- The **Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night** will be Tuesday, September 16th. Guest Speaker will be Randy Olm who is a coordinator of the Kiel Area Community Food Pantry. There will be a light lunch served at 5:30 pm with the presentation to follow. Please invite your friends and family. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Mission and Service Sunday** will be September 21st! Save the date! We will be making sandwiches and cookies for the Guest House, cleaning up Hwy X, and making hygiene kits for Church World Service.
 - Please check the display board in the fellowship hall. It lists the items needed for creating the disaster-relief hygiene kits. Take a post-it note and purchase the items. Please bring them in by Sept. 14. You can also donate cash or gifts cards and items will be purchased by the mission team.
- Thursday, Oct 30 - United Church Men & Women's Scholarship Banquet – Ebenezer UCC, Sheboygan – Meal starts @ 6:30pm – Program at 7:45 with Music by Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy. The program is free. Tickets are \$20 if you want to join for the meal. See Pastor Randy for tickets. If you like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, donations are always welcome!
- Friday, October 31, 2025. – **WHAT WE SING MATTERS – A Sing-a-Long Workshop** 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Academic Dean | Professor of Worship and Preaching | Dean of the Chapel, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri -- Event Venue: Lakeland University, Bradley Auditorium, W3718 South Dr, Plymouth, WI 53073 The event is free, but please register with Pastor Randy and he will procure your tickets

Community Announcements

It's Apple Pie Time! Please join the families of Divine Savior Catholic School in Kiel on September 19th and 20th with celebrating 25 years of making delicious Apple Pies. Made from scratch with love and care, each pie is made fresh and not baked. Pies are ready-to-bake or freeze to enjoy later. Apple Pies are \$15 each and can be ordered by calling (920) 894-3533 or online at divinesaviorschool.org/apple-pie-sale. We are also looking for some volunteers to help make pies. From quality control to pie assembly we have jobs to fit all abilities. Contact us at divinesaviorapplepiefundraiser@gmail.com to help make some delicious pies. All supplies are provided along with delicious food to keep you full of energy!

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

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 rrumpff@tm.net

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

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

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Those Grieving:

Kaitlin Johnson (Molly Rabe's sister)

Those struggling with health issues:

Ross Sippel	Dana
Mary Beth Molitor	Louie Bowe
Will Mathes	Heidi Konen
Darlene Horneck	Donna Firman
Brad Westphalen	Dawson Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Tom Lefeber
Hubert	Sarah Schisel
Scott Vogel	John Schmitt
John (Friend of Schlegel's)	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 8/31: 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Guest Speaker

Monday 9/1:

Tuesday 9/2: *Happy Birthday Tony Tesch!*

Wednesday 9/3: *Happy Birthday Brian Witkowski!*

Thursday 9/4:

Friday 9/5:

Saturday 9/6:

Sunday 9/7: 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship

**September Panty Item:
Toilet paper or Paper towels**

