# *BETHLEHEM UNITED*
# *CHURCH OF CHRIST*

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## Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025
### Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**
**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

***Blessed be the name of the Lord :: from this time and forevermore***

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
Praise the name of the Lord.
**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**
From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise God.
**We will bless God's holy name now and evermore.**
The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens,
but God raises up the poor and needy on the earth.
**So we will sing God's praise.**
Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER:
**God our Creator, You sustain your creation**
**as the source of life for every precious thing.**
**You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve,**
**and so we offer you our love and loyalty,**
**for without you, we would not be.**
**Receive our worship this day, O God.**
**Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour,**
**and amaze us with your promise of new life revealed in Jesus Christ,**
**and your power at work in us and among us through the Spirit. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN #448 "How Shall I Serve You, Lord?"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:
**Generous God,**
**You have enriched us with life worth living,**
**but we confess we often squander your good gifts.**
**We have wasted our time and energy,**
**but held tightly to things we think we need.**
**Forgive our foolish priorities**
**and those times we overlooked the needs of others.**
**Inspire us to live more generously,**
**trusting your goodness to sustain us always. Amen.**
Time of silent reflection…

WORDS OF GRACE
The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires of us three things:
**to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**
To all who truly repent and seek reconciliation with God and neighbour
in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace.
**All praise be to God! Amen!**

*RESPONSE #565 v. 1 "Blessed be the Name of the Lord"

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
**Amos 8:4-10 -** Amplified Bible
4 Hear this, you who trample down the needy, and do away with the poor of the land, 5 saying,
"When will the New Moon [festival] be over
So that we may sell grain,
And the Sabbath ended so that we may open the wheat *market*,
Making the ephah [measure] smaller and the shekel bigger [that is, selling less for a higher price] And to cheat by falsifying the scales,

6
So that we may buy the poor [as slaves] for silver [since they are unable to support themselves]
And the [a]needy for a pair of sandals,
And that we may sell the leftovers of the wheat [as if it were a good grade of grain]?”
7
The Lord has sworn [an oath] by the pride of Jacob,
“Surely I shall never forget [nor leave unpunished] any of their [rebellious] acts.
8
“Because of this [coming judgment] will the land not quake
And everyone mourn who dwells in it?
Indeed, all of it shall rise up like the Nile,
And it will be tossed around [from the impact of judgment]
And [afterward] subside again like the Nile of Egypt.
9
“It shall come about in that day,” says the Lord God,
“That I shall cause the sun to go down at noon,
And I shall darken the earth in broad daylight.
10
“And I shall turn your festivals *and* feasts into mourning
And all your songs into dirges (funeral poems to be sung);
And I shall cause sackcloth to be put on everyone’s [b]loins
And baldness on every head [shaved for mourning].
And I shall make that time like *a time of* mourning for an only son [who has died],
And the end of it shall be like a bitter day.

**Psalm 113** – p. 694 of hymnal – Leader reads odd verses, people read even

**Micah 6:8**
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
  and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
  and to walk humbly with your God?

*HYMN #307 “We are Called”

CHILDREN’S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE “Hands & Feet” Lindsay and the Circuit Riders

PRAYER CONCERNS

LITANY FOR MISSION…THE LORD'S PRAYER

God the Father, Creator of heaven and Earth, **Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the Faithful, **Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, **Have mercy on us.**

May it please you to send your church in all the world, that the name of Jesus may be known and his love demonstrated to all peoples, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to awaken a zeal for missions in the hearts of all your people, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to send out laborers into your harvest, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to enkindle within your people an awareness of mission and a willingness to provide faithful support, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

May it please you to bless the missions to all continents of the world, **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

For all people driven from their homes by war, violence, and natural disaster and for the nations who receive them that you may provide, protect, and care for them, We pray to you, O God**. Lord hear our prayer**

For the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed people of the world, and all who suffer, We pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and infirm and those who minister to them, We pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the hope of the Resurrection, and those whose faith is known to you alone, We pray to you, O God. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. And we pray as Christ taught us…

https://agmp-na.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/AGMPLitanyforMission2018.pdf

**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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

**Open our eyes Lord**
**We want to see Jesus,**
**To reach out and touch Him**
**And say that we love Him.**

**Open our ears Lord**
**And help us to listen,**
**Open our eyes Lord**
**We want to see Jesus.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY (Jingle Change supports The 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

**We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude for all you give us. Bless them and make them a source of healing for a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. 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.***

COMMISSIONING …
POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ADULT MISSION TRIP 2026!
  Area UCC churches will be joining together to send adult members (only because school will be in session) to flood-damaged Kentucky next spring. Here's your chance to help others and feel like you're making a difference. We will be having our first meeting to pick dates and begin planning on Sunday, September 28 at 6 pm at Bethlehem. Mission trips are hard work, but great fun! All who are interested in participating are encouraged to attend! Please contact Pastor Randy for more information, or if you'd like to be involved but cannot make the meeting. We hope you will join us!

- The Rural Church Fellowship CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, Oct 12 starting at 11:45. The walk for hunger will begin at St. Peter's UCC. ANYONE can walk in the event. Please see Pastor Randy if you'd like to walk and collect donations. Bethlehem's confirmation students are also participating. Please support them as you can!

- It's that time again… we are seeking people who would be interested in participating in the **United Christmas choir**? Rehearsals would be on Monday evenings at 7 pm beginning in October. The concert is planned for Sunday, December 14 at 1 pm at St. Peter's. Joint rehearsal on Monday, December 8 at 7 pm with a snow date of Wednesday, Dec. 10. Please see Pastor Randy to be added to the list.

- 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

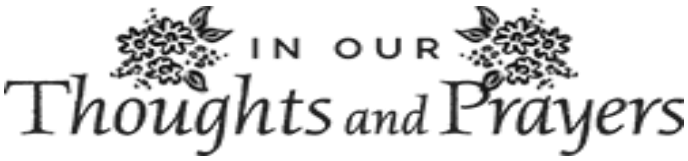
### Gospellers Coming to Sheboygan, October 11 and 12

The Wisconsin Gospellers will be coming to Sheboygan on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12th. The Gospellers will be leading the 10:00 am worship service in the First Congregational UCC (FCC) sanctuary on Sun. Oct. 12th. All who like to sing are invited to join the Gospellers for the Sat. Oct. 11th music workshop that they will be hosting from 3-5 pm in the FCC sanctuary. Any questions can be directed to David Wernecke (davidmusic1213@yahoo.com). We look forward to you joining us for this exciting opportunity.

- Tim Keenan, (who has served as a supply pastor at BUCC), is a Christian novelist and has published several books. There will a book signing at St. John's UCC in Ada from 2pm-4pm on Sunday, October 26. Please see the flyer for details and for information of ordering his books.

## 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 srumpff@tm.net
Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com
Pastor – Rev. Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com




**Those Grieving:**
The family of Will Mathes

**Those struggling with health issues:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ross Sippel | Dana |
| Mary Beth Molitor | Louie Bowe |
| Heidi Konen | Sofia |
| Darlene Horneck | Donna Firman |
| Brad Westphalen | Dawson Horneck |
| Jessica Horneck | Tom Lefeber |
| Hubert | Larry |
| Scott Vogel | John (Friend of Schlegel's) |
| Chase | |

**Those unable to worship with us:**
Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

## This Week at Bethlehem:

**Today, Sunday 9/21:** 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship followed by Lunch and Mission and Service projects
**Monday 9/22:**
**Tuesday 9/23:**
**Wednesday 9/24:** Confirmation Event at Lakeland – Meet at St. Peters UCC at 6pm; *Happy Anniversary Ross & Lisa Westphalen!*
**Thursday 9/25**: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; *Happy Birthday Robert Schnell!*
**Friday 9/26:**
**Saturday 9/27**:
**Sunday 9/28:** 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship

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