



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025

Sixteenth 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

Praise the Lord, O my Soul :: I will praise God as long as I live

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 (Inspired Psalm 146)

One: Praise God! Praise the Holy One, O my soul!

Many: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long!

One: Praise God in whom we may trust. Praise God in whom we may hope.

Many: Happy are we whose hope is in the Maker of heaven and earth.

One: The Holy One lifts the bowed down. The Righteous One loves justice.

Many: The Holy One brings the way of the wicked to ruin. Praise God who reigns forever!

*OPENING PRAYER:

God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to our souls. Engage our spirits with truth and compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so that we may honor you and be restored in you. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #257

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Compassionate God, we need to repent. We confess that too often we only care about our own suffering and discomfort and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor. We turn away or even contribute to the plight of others. We feast on systems that create deprivation and inequity. We enjoy the spoils of war that leave human siblings to subsistence in rubble and ruins. We accept distortions of the gospel that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet the needs of your beloved when your kingdom enables all to flourish. Meet us as we turn back to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we may be instruments of restoration, repair, and renewal in your name. Amen. *Time of silent reflection...*

WORDS OF GRACE

God's mercy endures and renews.

The world envisioned by the Holy One is available when we believe it, commit to it, and pursue it with all our being.

Let us receive God's grace to do a new thing, in word and in deed, so that the world may know the love of God, the hope of God, and the promise of God through what we say, how we live, what we do, and the fruit we produce.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE #565 v. 1

“Blessed be the Name of the Lord”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 146 – p. 729 in hymnal

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith

and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #349

“Take my Life and Let it Be”

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: God of all creatures great and small,
Make us stewards of what is precious to you.

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

Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of You and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mark your calendars!!! The BUCC WISE team Christ is pleased to host guest speaker, police officer Adam Meyers. Officer Meyer's presentation will be at the Kiel Community Center (510 3rd Street, Kiel) on Monday, October 20 beginning at 6pm. Officer Meyers was involved in an officer-involved shooting and the experience led to significant mental health and substance abuse challenges. Meyers will use his experience to demonstrate the importance of de-stigmatizing mental health concerns and normalizing conversations about mental health. The presentation is free of charge.
- 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 Tonight 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!
- 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.
- Friday, Oct 17 – Fish Fry!! Dine in or carry out – 4pm-7pm at Community UCC in Elkhart Lake – 174 N. East Street – see flyer
- 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.
- Join the Sheboygan County Housing Coalition on November 7th at 6 PM for an educational experience like no other. **The Night Without Shelter** is an event that aims to raise awareness and educate those within our community about homelessness. This year, we’ll address common myths and misconceptions regarding homelessness and some of the underlying causes. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about organizations that serve folks experiencing homelessness, hear from individuals with lived experience, and process the experience with other participants. Finally, you’ll have the opportunity to spend a night without shelter, in your car, in a tent, or simply under the stars. This a great opportunity to step into the shoes of our unhoused neighbors and learn more about what we can each do to make the world a little kinder to one another. We will also be seeking donations for winter gear and cash donations, if you feel so inclined. A portion of any proceeds will go back to St. Luke United Methodist Church, which will be our host this year. Registration can be found at this link: <https://forms.gle/ENNNczjDTtUS2dX17>

2025 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@gmail.com
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Elder – Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

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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:

The Family of Rachel Zeinemann
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 Goekes	Lynn
Mark	Melissa

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 9/28: 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship

Monday 9/29:

Tuesday 9/30: *Happy Birthday Chad Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Dan & Amy Wempner!!*

Wednesday 10/1:

Thursday 10/2:

Friday 10/3:

Saturday 10/4: *Happy Birthday Kerry Henning!*

Sunday 10/5: 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship

**October Panty Item:
Cleaning Supplies**