



BETHLEHEM UNITED

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, October 12, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

Musician: 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

The Lord is my portion :: therefore I will wait for him

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 by Psalm 37)

One: Do not despair at the acts of the wicked-

Many: Trust in God. Scatter the seeds of justice in our world.

One: Do not desire or trust in the power of worldly empires-

Many: Delight in the power of God whose light fills our souls.

One: Do not embrace wrath or resentment; find patience in times of shadows-

Many: Commit to the ways of God. Trust in the Holy One as Divine Love fills our earth.

*OPENING PRAYER:

Holy Assurance,

The cobwebs of doubt spread as we notice divisions and injustices grow. We are uncertain of your presence and have great doubt of the ways you work through us. As we seek your presence among us, clear our minds of the distractions. As mercy blossoms, our doubts will transform to belief. Fill our souls with hope. May we know that your Realm abides around us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #39

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

Spirit of Encouragement,

You thrive in our times of doubt. Your work takes root even if the drought of fear destroys our fertile soil. Yet we allow our mistrust of you and our neighbors to disturb our growth. We ask you to increase our faith when we are refusing to cultivate it. Motivate us to seek new ways of exploring our faith. Embolden us to trust even when fear creeps into our minds. Amen.

Time of silent reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE

In seasons of drought and rains, **God is still giving us the encouragement to grow in faith.** Know that through the grace of God, **we will continue to find the strength to stretch ourselves and expand our faith.**

*RESPONSE #565 v. 1

“Blessed be the Name of the Lord”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Lamentations 1:1-6

1 ^[a]How deserted lies the city,
once so full of people!
How like a widow is she,
who once was great among the
nations!
She who was queen among the
provinces
has now become a slave.
2 Bitterly she weeps at night,
tears are on her cheeks.
Among all her lovers
there is no one to comfort her.
All her friends have betrayed her;
they have become her enemies.

3 After affliction and harsh labor,
Judah has gone into exile.
She dwells among the nations;
she finds no resting place.
All who pursue her have overtaken
her in the midst of her distress.
4 The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to her appointed
festivals.
All her gateways are desolate,
her priests groan,
her young women grieve,
and she is in bitter anguish.
5 Her foes have become her masters;
her enemies are at ease.

The Lord has brought her grief
because of her many sins.
Her children have gone into exile,
captive before the foe.

⁶ All the splendor has departed
from Daughter Zion.

Her princes are like deer
that find no pasture;
in weakness they have fled
before the pursuer.

Lamentations 3:19-26

¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.

²⁰ I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.

²¹ Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:

²² **Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.**

²³ **They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

²⁴ **I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."**

²⁵ The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Luke 17:5-10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

⁶ He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

⁷ "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

CHILDREN'S TIME

*HYMN #47

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SERMON

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER...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.

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 Neighbors in Need)

*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

God, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. Our gifts may not be perfect, but bless them with your Holy Spirit to spread your goodness in the world, for the sake of Christ, our living Lord. 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:

- ADULT MISSION TRIP 2026!
The area UCC churches met last week and have scheduled our spring mission trip from March 22-28, 2026. We will be traveling to Pikeville, KY to help with damages caused by floods. If you are interested in joining the group, please let Pastor Randy know. Our next meeting is 11/2 – 6pm at Bethlehem.
- 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.
- 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 – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.

- Wed. October 15 – 4pm-7pm – **Drive thru Chili Supper** at Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove
- Friday, Oct 17 – **Fish Fry!! Dine in or carry out** – 4pm-7pm at Community UCC in Elkhart Lake – 174 N. East Street
- **Ham Dinner** – Sunday, Oct. 19 – 11am-12:30pm – St. James UCC, Newton. Dine in or carry out.
- Sunday, Oct 26 – 11a-2pm - **Drive-thru Brat Fry** -St. Johns UCC, New Holstein
- 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>
- **Kiel Municipal Band Scholarship Concert**
Celebrate music and mentorship at the Kiel Performing Arts Center on Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 PM! This grand finale of the Friends of Kiel Performing Arts 2025 Series supports the Edgar P. Thiessen Scholarship, helping local high school seniors pursue their dreams. Tickets at www.cur8.com (search "Kiel"). Let's pack the house with heart and harmony!



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

Joys:

The marriage of Julie Mueller and Mason Meyer

Those Grieving:

The Family of Jeanette Wriedt

The Family of Scott Vogel

The Family of Will Mathes

Those struggling with health issues:

Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Brad Westphalen	Jessica Horneck
Sofia	Melissa
Hubert	Larry
John (Friend of Schlegel's)	Dana
Chase Goekes	Lynn
Mark	Darya

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 10/12: 8:00am Sunday School! 9:30am Sunday Worship; 11:45 CROP Walk at St. Peters UCC

Monday 10/13:

Tuesday 10/14: 6:30pm Consistory Mtg; *Happy Birthday Rick Rabe!*

Wednesday 10/15: : *Happy Anniversary Mark & Brenda Riesterer!*

Thursday 10/16: *Happy Birthday Lisa Westphalen! Happy Anniversary Tom & Marie Mueller and Daniel & McKenna Rugowski!*

Friday 10/17: *Happy Birthday Cameron Wempner!*

Saturday 10/18: *Happy Anniversary Kyle & Brianna Pennel!*

Sunday 10/19: 8:00am Sunday School; 8:30am Bethlehem Ladies; 9:30am Sunday Worship;

October Panty Item: Cleaning Supplies