



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

Follow Bethlehem UCC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/bucckiel/>

or Bethlehem's website at www.bethlehemkiel.org

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: Steven Voland

Musician: Kathy Bowe

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

***= 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 be to the Lord God :: who alone does marvelous deeds

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #86 v. 1

"like a child"

like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,

like a child and a friend, Jesus comes

like a child we may find claiming heart soul and mind,

like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - HOPE

[the match is lit]

Out of darkness a light shines.

Out of silence an angel declares the Savior will be born,
and a young woman responds, "Here am I."

From a dead stump a shoot grows.
From hopelessness, hope.
Today we begin the journey toward the light.
Today we light this candle of hope. —Joyce Borger © 2025 *ReformedWorship.org*

[the candle is lit]
The God of hope calls us, “come and worship.”

**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.**

*OPENING PRAYER:

Emmanuel, we come here today to renew ourselves in the generosity of God’s hope. We will climb the mountain hand in hand that we may learn again of God’s promise to be with us, both in the valley and on the peaks. Let us set down our despair and rest in the light of God until we are renewed!

**OPENING HYMN (insert) “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE:

God, it is not a year abundant with hope. We cry out for solace, for rest, for strength; we curse in anger at the horrors we see perpetrated in your name; we turn our backs on those who suffer, and we scorn those who bring suffering upon others. We are lost and demoralized, aching for the hope in your Word, and yet when you speak, we do not hear. We do not quiet the spirit within or allow your peace to fall upon us. We root ourselves in devastation when true strength is born out of your tender grace. Forgive us, God, for abandoning hope in favor of fear and a desire for retribution.

Time of silent reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE

God does not turn us away when we falter.

We are, instead, taken in and given sanctuary so that we may revive in God’s tender mercy.

God will be our shelter while we rest, as well as when we are ready, once again, to rise up.

Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. [\[a\]](#)

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, [\[a\]](#) but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating

and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

*HYMN #92

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

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 #403 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us
grace.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: Hope is not only fuel that sustains our spirits. Hope lives within the tangible gifts we give each week to support the most vulnerable among us. In our generosity, we act on God's behalf, ensuring the needs of our community are met. Let us receive our offerings at this time.

OFFERTORY At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. Today's jingle change, because it is a "Fifth Sunday" supports Bethlehem's WISE efforts.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Doxology to tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye, heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Beloved Creator, we offer these gifts to you in the spirit of Hope. We place our trust in you and in those who faithfully care for your people, that these gifts will be used to protect and uplift those who are in need. Help us to remember our role to act as agents of your grace each and every day. 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

When we leave this place today, let us carry the flame of Hope within us, no matter how small it may seem.

**We feed it with the knowledge that God's love is provocative.
Our Beloved's breath blows through us, allowing the flames to rise and catch
and give us strength all the days of our lives. Amen**

POSTLUDE

***liturgies for this morning were used with permission from: ucc.org unless noted otherwise.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thanksgiving for Immanuel Food Pantry

Way to go Bethlehem family and friends! A total of 286 grocery items plus \$90 in cash and gift cards was contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Pantry bags. The Merry Christians went shopping for the rest of the items needed to fill 40 bags of groceries. The following was collected:

25 Boxes of Mashed Potatoes	26 Cans of Green Beans	31 Boxes of Jello
22 Jars of Turkey Gravy	58 Cans of Corn	6 Boxes of Stove Top Stuffing
20 Bags of Marshmallows	7 Cans of Cranberry Sauce	46 Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup
4 Cans of French Fried Onions	8 Cans of Yams	33 Cans of Pie Filling (Apple or Pumpkin)

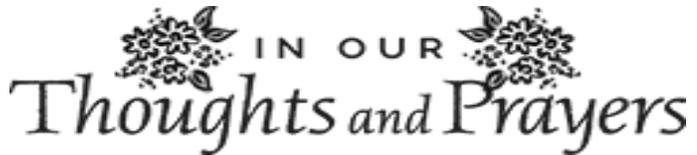
- Heifer International: Still time to contribute to the Heifer International. In 2024 Bethlehem donated \$2750 to Heifer. The goal for 2025 was set at \$1820. To date we've got enough funds for 1 heifer, 2 sheep, 2 goats, 1 pig, 2 flocks of chicks, and 1 hive of honeybees. Deadline is Sunday, December 7.
- Bethlehem Ladies will be taking Poinsettia orders. We have single, double and triple red or white poinsettia available. Order deadline is Sunday, November 30th, 2025. Sign up sheet in the fellow ship hall. Please make check payable to Ginny Schultz.
- The confirmation students will be preparing and serving breakfast to cover the costs of their winter retreat. Please join them on Sunday, Dec. 7 following worship. Freewill donations will be collected.
- Bethlehem UCC is signed up to work at the Sheboygan Warming Center on Sunday, January 26. The shift is from 6pm-9pm. The work involves setting up for dinner, serving dinner, washing dishes (commercial dishwasher) and cleaning up. There are five slots available. Sign up in the fellowship hall.

Community Announcements – See flyers in fellowship hall for details.

- Cookie Walk – 12/6 – 9a-11a – St. Peters UCC, Kiel
- Christmas Bingo – 12/14 – 11:30a-2:00pm - St. Marks UCC – see flyer for details

Those Grieving:

The Family of Tom Phillip, Jr
The Family of Jeanette Wriedt
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
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Mark	Molly
Willow	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin Ninmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sunday 11/30: 8:00am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship; *Happy Birthday Leah Henning!*

Monday 12/1: 4pm Loads of Love; *Happy Birthday Mavryk Suttner!*

Tuesday 12/2:

Wednesday 12/3: 6pm Confirmation class

Thursday 12/4: *Happy Birthday Kristen Schmitt and Kelly Biwan!*

Friday 12/5: *Happy Birthday Declan Radder!*

Saturday 12/6:

Sunday 12/7: 8:00am Sunday School; 9:30am Sunday Worship w/ Communion; Breakfast served by the confirmation class following worship; *Happy Birthday Stephen Deignin, Jr, Jeff Holz, and Jackie Volland!*

December Panty Item: Box of Cereal



ADVENT

153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C F A C7 F F A Gm Dm C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C F A C7 F F A Gm Dm C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Am Dm Gm7 C7 Dm7 C7 F F E Dm F G2 Gm Bbmaj7 Csus C

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

F F6 Gm C7 F F Bm7(b3) C7 Bb C7 F F7 Bb F A Bb F C7 F

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.