



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, June 7, 2026

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Dr. Cary Johannes

Musician: Polly Jeanty

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

I call you in my trouble:: you will deliver me

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:**

One: Rejoice in God's goodness, people of God!

All: We will sing praises to our God.

One: God loves righteousness and justice;

All: We will serve God faithfully.

One: The earth is full of God's steadfast love.

All: We come to worship and offer our love and loyalty

*OPENING PRAYER:

**Creator, Christ and Spirit,
you are overflowing with love,
infinite in kindness, incomparable in glory
and the source of all wisdom and knowledge.
In you, all things work together for good and are redeemed.
Your presence breaks into our lives in transformative ways
and you touch us with wonder.
In response to your goodness and glory,
we offer you thanks with our prayers,
praise with our hearts,
and honour with our lives,
this day and every day, now and always. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN #7

“Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

In confidence of your grace and kindness, O God,
and out of a desire to begin again
with you and one another, we confess to God our sins:

**All: God of mercy,
whose loving kindness endures forever:
we confess that often we have failed
to receive and give love;
to care for others as we care for ourselves;
to pardon and to accept pardon.
We remember
good intentions that were not put into actions;
harsh words said in anger;
selfish purposes that caused pain and
persistent pride that would not yield.
Hear us, O Lord,
as in this silence, we make our confession to you...
(time of silence)**

WORDS OF GRACE

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one
another. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* RESPONSE #560 (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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 12:1-9

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.^[a]

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”^[b]

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring^[c] I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’^[a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.”

²² Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

*HYMN #448 VS. 1,2,3,5

“How Shall I Serve You, Lord?”

THE LORD’S SUPPER

(God’s table is open to ALL, regardless of affiliation or membership. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will partake together. All bread is gluten free. The inner circles are grape juice; the outer rings are wine.)

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #525 refrain only "One Bread, One Body"

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Petitions end with: Jesus Christ, lover of all; **Bring healing, bring peace.**

**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.**

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #226 v. 1 "Spirit of the Living God"

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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. Jingle Change for June supports The UCC's Annual "Strengthen the Church" Offering. "The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations" - ucc.org)

* 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

God of healing and hope, you offer us what we need in Christ Jesus, not always what we want. Bless our gifts and use them to meet needs in lives touched by the outreach of our church. Give each of us courage to reach out in Jesus' name whenever you call. 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

***liturgies and prayers for today we used with permission from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and*

Bethlehem Announcements:

Vacation Bible School!

Top o' the mornin'! Get ready to explore the Emerald Isle and the powerful words of Psalm 23! In a confusing world, kids need to know there's a God who cares for them. As they journey through lush landscapes, they'll discover the shepherd - King David and learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, fear to faith, and uncertainty to trust in God's Word.

Once again, we are partnering with St. Marks/ St. James for Vacation Bible School! All are welcome, and needn't be members of any of the involved congregations. Invite a friend! Bonus: It's free!! There is no cost to families! If possible, we will attempt to work out some sort of transportation from Bethlehem to St. Marks. Additionally, we would always accept volunteers to help with activities, even if just for ONE hour!

Enrollment forms were mailed to Sunday School families, but if you need one, please ask Pastor Randy. Please return your enrollment by June 30 so we can begin preparing for classes.

- **Do you know a member of Bethlehem that is graduating this year from high school or place of higher learning? If so, please provide Pastor Randy with the name, school, and type of degree. We will honor them on June 21!**
- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
 - DVD player
 - VHS tapes
 - Large TV stand
 - Also available is a couch and rocking chair

****Pastor Randy and Melissa will be on vacation June 6-14. If you have an emergency pastoral need, please call Rev. David Kohls of St. John's UCC, New Holstein. (920-522-2565)**



For those grieving:

Family of Joe Joas (neighbor of Bethlehem)

Those dealing with health concerns:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Elaine Brill | Tom Knier |
| Tyler Meyer | Janet |
| Judy Brockway | Davin Horneck |
| Jackie Volland | Karen Laack |
| Louie Bowe | Dawson Horneck |
| Heidi Konen | Darlene Horneck |
| Jessica Horneck | Margaret |
| Sofia | Willow |
| Hubert | Larry |
| Chase Goekes | Tyler Smith |
| Molly | Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway) |

And for those in our church family who are dealing with concerns but wish to keep them private.

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin Nimmer Helen Henning

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today, Sunday 6/7: 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Communion

Monday 6/8: *Happy Birthday Ginny Schultz!*

Tuesday 6/9:

Wednesday 6/10:

Thursday 6/11: *Happy Birthday Evan Aschenbach, Ethan Aschenbach, and Melissa Koppenhaver!!*

Friday 6/12:

Saturday 6/13: *Happy Birthday Julie Mueller-Meyer*

Sunday 6/14: 9:30am Sunday worship; 6:30pm VB game at Bethlehem; *Happy Birthday Sebastin Rugowski!*

May/June Panty Item: Cereal

