



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver

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

I love the Lord :: He has heard my call for mercy

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:** (inspired by Psalm 86)

One: The Holy One is great and does marvelous things. Delight in God!

Many: The Holy One gladdens the soul. We lift them up!

One: In the day of trouble, we call on Comforter and Protector, Counselor and

Provider, Companion and Peace.

Many: The Holy One soothes the soul. We call upon their name!

One: The Gracious and Eternal God gives ear to our prayers and listens to our cries.

Many: The Holy One hears the soul. We turn to our God in hope and faith!

*OPENING PRAYER:

Merciful and Compassionate God, we come into your presence. Be near to us as we draw closer to you. Be near to us even when we have doubts, have given up hope, and have been overwhelmed by our fears. Be near to us as we sing, pray, give, and receive. We praise you for your goodness and worship you for who you are.

*OPENING HYMN #505 VS. 1,3,4

“Faith of our Fathers”

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Listening God, we acknowledge that you know us. You are familiar with our attitudes, behavior, and character. You ground us in the fertile soil of your love. Yet, we confess that at times, we feel rooted in sand. We observe our life circumstances, and hope may collapse under despair, fear may overcome courage, and uncertainty drives out faith. Help us, O God, when we cry out and when we don't. Speak to us so that your message drowns out any other voice, including our own, that believes less for us than your promises offer. Do a new thing in us, for us, and through us. Amen. (time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, the Holy One has observed, received, and acknowledged our need and our hope. In Christ, new life has been revealed, opened, and modeled for us.

By Spirit, the Holy One leads us into renewing and transformative life. This is God's will for each and all of us. The love and strength of God will sustain us through every trial and propel us through our journey of hope, healing, and wholeness.

* 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

Psalms 86: 1-10, 16,17

¹ Hear me, Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

**² Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God;**
³ have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.
**⁴ Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
for I put my trust in you.**
⁵ You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.
**⁶ Hear my prayer, Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.**
⁷ When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.
**⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.**
⁹ All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.
**¹⁰ For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.**
¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;
show your strength in behalf of your servant;
save me, because I serve you just as my mother did.
**¹⁷ Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴ “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of

me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of

me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

CHILDREN’S TIME

FATHER’S DAY LITANY

God of love,

Today we ask your blessing on all who give their lives with a father’s love.

Bless new fathers and wise grandfathers.

Bless loving uncles and caring godfathers.

Bless fathers who await the birth of their child with joy.

Bless men who did not expect or want to become fathers.

Bless men who embrace fatherhood through adoption or foster parenting, step-parenting or single parenthood.

Bless men still waiting and hoping to become fathers.

Bless fathers whose work takes them away from their children.

Bless fathers whose work is with their children.

Bless fathers whose lives are shaped by war, poverty, or violence.

Bless fathers who work for peace, freedom, and justice.

Bless teachers and mentors who serve as father figures.

Bless pastors and ministers who lead as loving parents.

Bless men who are separated from their children, by force or choice.

Bless families without fathers and all who love in abundance in their absence.

Bless fathers who have lost a child.

Bless children who have lost their father.

Bless all whose fathers were loving.

Bless all whose fathers failed to meet their needs for love.

Bless all who celebrate today.

Bless all who struggle today.

In the name of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – we pray.

Amen.

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SERMON

*HYMN #386

“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Petitions end with: Embrace us all with your mercy, O God,

And give us grace to respond to the needs around us.

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**

Holy One, thank you for the privilege of giving. Bless these gifts and those who give. Enable us to trust and participate in your abundance. Extend wisdom and discernment as we allocate these offerings. Expand our reach and impact for your kingdom and glory. 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 ucc.org/worshipways***

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.

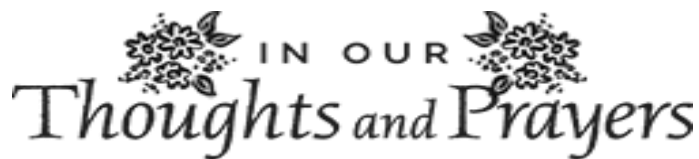
- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
 - VHS tapes
 - Large TV stand
 - Also available is a couch and rocking chair

Congrats to our 2026 Graduates

Mason Wempner, Kiel High School

Merri Wempner, Kiel High School

Emiliee Wirtz, Kiel High School, Plans to attend UW Madison with Major in Early Childhood education - minors in math and psychology



Joys:

- The birth of Rylee Collyns Heugel on 5/28/26. Proud grandparents are Jane & Scott Umland
- The marriage of Eric & Dayna (Schultz) Baake on 5/31/26

Those dealing with health concerns:

Elaine Brill	Tom Knier
Tyler Meyer	Janet
Judy Brockway	Davin Horneck
Jackie Voland	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 6/21: 9:30am Sunday worship; 6:30pm VB game at Bethlehem; *Happy Anniversary Austin & Mariah Lau!*

Monday 6/22: *Happy Birthday John Schisel*

Tuesday 6/23: *Happy Anniversary Lee & Nicole Watson!*

Wednesday 6/24:

Thursday 6/25: 9am BUCC @ Immanuel Food Pantry; *Happy Birthday McKenna Rugowski and Trent Hanson!*

Friday 6/26: *Happy Birthday Jerry Wehrmann!*

Saturday 6/27: *Happy Birthday Warren Fidlin and Kayla Hanson! Happy Anniversary Brad & Maria Hoban!*

Sunday 6/28: 9:30am Sunday worship; 6:30pm VB game at Bethlehem;

May/June Panty Item: Cereal

