



**BETHLEHEM UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: [BethUCCKiel@outlook.com](mailto:BethUCCKiel@outlook.com)

Follow Bethlehem UCC

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

or Bethlehem's website at [www.bethlehemkiel.org](http://www.bethlehemkiel.org)

CCLI Copyright and Streaming Lic # 11640740 and CSPL193734

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

**Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

*If listening from your car, please tune your car radio to 101.3 FM*

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549

"As We Gather"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come from many places, following different roads.

**We come hungering for greater understanding.**

We have come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

**We come seeking companions in the faith.**

We have come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.

**We come to grow as disciples of Christ.**

Come, let us worship God, made known in Christ Jesus.

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Wondrous God, present with us even when we do not know it, valuing us when we do not care for ourselves, planting in us the seed of your word even when the soil of our hearts is hard and unyielding, open our eyes to recognize you here. May we sense your presence next to us. May we hear your voice. May we know your touch. May we see you in one another and in the beauty all around us. May your reality emerge deep**

**inside each life, transforming our thoughts and deeds and relationship with one another. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #210 vs. 1-3

“Now the Green Blade Riseth”

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Week by week we open our lives before you, acknowledging ways we sometimes lose track of you. We are driven and feel busy so we let other things come before you in our lives. Changes upend us and we don't know where to turn. Forgive us when we forget that you are with us day by day. Renew us in your love, we pray. (time of silence)**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

On the Emmaus road, Jesus met friends who were discouraged and distracted by his death. **Yet when he spoke God's word to them, their hearts burned within them.** Receive God's word of forgiveness today. **May the fire of God's love warm our hearts with God's promise of peace and new life. Amen.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571

“Halle, Halle Hallelujah!”

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Psalms 116: 1-4, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> **Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;

the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called on the name of the LORD:**

**‘O LORD, I pray, save my life!’**

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of**

**the LORD,**

<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

<sup>16</sup> O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.

You have loosed my bonds.

<sup>17</sup> **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup> **in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst,  
O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

## **Luke 24:13-35**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## **SERMON**

\*HYMN #354 all

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

This morning we welcome Piercy Edward Hoeper Heugel into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Piercy was born on 11/6/2022. Piercy's parents are Sage and Emily Heugel. He is the grandson of Scott and Jane Umland. Piercy's sponsors are Lindsey Kohlman and Tyler See.

### INVITATION

#### WELCOME

Leader: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

**People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."**

Leader: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.<sup>4</sup>

### ADDRESS

Leader: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible ...and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.<sup>9</sup>

**People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please stand)

**People: We receive this child as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as he explores life. We enfold this child in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We join with these parents in telling the gospel in our midst so that this child may live with us for Christ, showing forth Christ's love for all people.**

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God with the United Church of Christ's Statement of Faith.

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

\*HYMN #516

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: God in your mercy, **Hear our prayers.**

**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.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change for goes towards One Great Hour of Sharing) One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the

world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. (ucc.org)

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Doxology” Text: John H. Danner (2016)

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God, you bless us with life, purpose, and opportunities to serve in the world you love. We offer you our gifts in Christ’s name, not seeking greater gain, but desiring to enrich life around us with your love. 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.***

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*\*Liturgies and prayers used with permission from: <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>, and Baylor, Lavon. *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A*. Pilgrim Press, 2002.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The United Church Men and Women is seeking a delegate from Bethlehem to attend their Spring Leaders and Planning Meeting. The meeting is Wed., April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm at St. James UCC, Spring Valley. Please let Randy know if you can attend!
- Been attending awhile, but not a member? Bethlehem will be holding a “New-Member Sunday on May 21. From 8-9a we will have a brief “class” and discussion about Bethlehem. New members will be “installed” during the 9:30 worship service. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in joining.

Thanks to our Bethlehem family for your prayers, concerns, cards, letters, visits, thoughtfulness, and treats. Everything you have done means a great deal to me. Special thanks to Pastor Randy for visits, communion, and helping to bring me peace understanding, and coping. Randy is a very genuine person and uplifting to talk to. – Bob Radder 4/14/2023

## **2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team**

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or [svolland44@gmail.com](mailto:svolland44@gmail.com)

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or [trabefamily5@gmail.com](mailto:trabefamily5@gmail.com)

Elder - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or [lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us](mailto:lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us)

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 [rossw@forhealthycows.com](mailto:rossw@forhealthycows.com)

Deacon/Secretary - Kathy Bowe (920)894-7243 [LandKBowe@outlook.com](mailto:LandKBowe@outlook.com)

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 [srumpff@tm.net](mailto:srumpff@tm.net)

Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 [jm59umland@gmail.com](mailto:jm59umland@gmail.com)

Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 [randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)



### **Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

#### **Joys:**

#### **Families who have lost loved ones:**

June Propson

Lucy Dreifuerst (Brian Witkowski's Grandmother)

#### **Those struggling with health issues:**

Shirley Henschel

Scott Umland

Bob Radder

Daisy Sippel

Darlean Rumpff

Darlene Horneck

Doreen Schmidt

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Hattie Lucille

Jessica Horneck

Sandra Tesch

Dawson Horneck

Gary Steinhardt

John Buchholz

### **Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer**

#### **Other Concerns:**

- Victims of violence
- Victims of recent natural disasters, especially victims of recent tornados in the US
- People affected by war and/or oppression (Esp. Ukraine)

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- All you can Eat Potato and Buttermilk Pancake Dinner on Sunday April 30, 2023 from 3-6pm. Also Serving: Brats, Hamburgers, Applesauce, Desserts, Milk, & Coffee  
Cost: \$14.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for Children 6-12 years, Free for Children 5 & Under  
Zion Lutheran Church, 1702 Van Buren St., New Holstein, proceeds benefit the Zion LYF
- Brat Fry – Wed, May 10 – 4p-7p – St. James UCC – Spring Valley



### **FREE TO A GOOD HOME!!!**

There is a large monstera plant in the pastor's office that's becoming too big for the space. The plant came from Ronnie Schrieber's home following his passing, so I'd like it to go to someone who will take good care of it. Please see Pastor Randy if you're interested in adopting the plant.

*Pastor Randy's installation service will be celebrated:*

*Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2:00pm*

*A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service*

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 4/23:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Kaye Radder!

**Monday 4/24:**

**Tuesday 4/25:**

**Wednesday 4/26:** 6pm Confirmation class

**Thursday 4/27:** ~Happy Birthday Mia Watson and Ryan Rabe!

**Friday 4/28:** ~Happy Birthday Bob Radder!

**Saturday 4/29:** ~Happy Birthday Louie Bowe!

**Sunday 4/30:** 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Confirmation;

### **April Pantry Items:**

**Bottle of hand soap, dish soap or shampoo**