



## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

**Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers**

**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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Adapted from 2 Chronicles 7:14-15

God says, "If my people,

**Who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray,**

And seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways,

**I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

Now my eyes will be open and my ears will be attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

**Loving God, we claim your promises to us today. Heal our land. Heal us. Help us to seek your face in worship today. - Austin D. Hill**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Lord, We pray for the heart position of humility. Humility in such a way that we do not cheapen our own worth or value within, but that we take the alignment that we are here for a greater purpose than just our own gain. We pray that You will highlight to us what it truly means to live a humble life, and that our own worth will be revealed by Your Light. It is only then that we may truly live in freedom and right standing, for we will hold our own value correctly. Lord, we welcome You to mold and secure our hearts in true humility by Your lead. In Jesus name, Amen**

\*OPENING HYMN: #7 (all)

“Praise to the Lord”

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God’s love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayers.

Let us pray together:

**Holy God, we will be honest: this is really hard. It is really hard to wear masks, to avoid public gatherings, to spend so much time watching screens. We’re losing patience and we’re losing hope and we’re losing our grip on faith. We’re caught between the selfishness of wanting to do whatever we want without regard for others, and wanting to be helpful and generous. Please help us. Help us to lean on you and each other when things get hard and when we get depressed. Remind us every day that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Encourage our hearts, and help us to be your people, to the best of our ability in these strange days. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who is with us always. Amen.**

Always remember and know that God’s agenda is forgiveness and conversion not judgment and condemnation. God can cleanse and forgive us from anything. The question is will we continue to walk with him in that forgiveness even as we forgive others? Let us answer that question with how we deal with our relationships today.

\*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

### **Philippians 2:3-8**

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

## **Matthew 18: 1-5**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'

SERMON

"Humility"

\*HYMN #142 (all)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

CALL TO THE OFFERING - (Offerings and Jingle Change are collected before and after worship. The basket is located near the double doors to the sanctuary. AUGUST JINGLE CHANGE supports Bethlehem's "adopt a facility" project )

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

**We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be:**

**All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We dedicate this money, Lord, for the work of the church,**

**And we ask you to use all that we have**

**And all that we are in your service. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER... LORD'S PRAYER (congregation may be seated)

Lord, you give us choices each and every day.

This week we have seen your path,  
and turned away from it.

We have seen our brother or sister in need  
and we did not turn to help.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have said cruel or unkind words,  
or refrained from saying helpful words  
when they were needed.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have been critical of those  
who failed to offer us a helping hand,  
while ignoring our own apathy towards others.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have used our resources, gifts from you, to help only ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We give you thanks that in spite of ourselves  
you show your love to us in many ways each and every day.

**Lord, your love sustains us.**

We give you thanks for life and breath today,  
for health and food to eat, and a beautiful world to live in.

**Lord, your love sustains us.**

We give you thanks for the many people in our lives  
who love us, who care for us, whose presence brings us joy.

**Lord, your love sustains us.**

We give you thanks for this community of faith,  
faithful in every season, singing your praises,  
encouraging us to give our utmost to our Savior.

**Lord, your love sustains us.**

We give you thanks for sending your son Jesus Christ  
through whose death we receive pardon,  
through whose resurrection we have hope. We pray for.....

God of grace, everything we are belongs to you,  
be with us this week as we go from this place.

**Lord, your love sustains us and gives us peace even as we prayer  
Jesus' words...**

**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.**

\*CLOSING SONG #314 (all) "Jesus Calls Us In"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

### **2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members**

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 – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family**

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)

**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**



**Joys:**

Birth of Maxwell Voland- Born Aug. 12 to Kevin and Mandy Voland  
The marriage of Steven and Jackie Voland on July 30.

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)  
DuWayne Ninmer  
Jane Markelz  
Everett Henning

**Those struggling with health issues:**

McKenna Rugowski	Finn (a young boy with cancer)
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Steve Rumpff
Glen Schad	Jessica Horneck
Signe Burkhart	Dana P (friend of Melissa K)
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck
Warren Fidlin	Hattie Lucille

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

**Other Concerns:**

People of the Ukraine and others affected by war and violence.  
People affected by recent gun violence in our nation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- We would like to thank everyone in the Bethlehem congregation who kept Lora's nephew Karl in their prayers over the past year. God bless you all.  
Lora and Will Mathes
- The blue and yellow candle on the altar is lit in unity with the people of the Ukraine.
- Field of Dreams is accepting visitors again! Merlin and Doris Mae would love to see you!

**Bethlehem's Spiritual  
Leadership:**

**Reverend Roy Rogers**

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:  
[rogersr671@gmail.com](mailto:rogersr671@gmail.com)

**Randy Koppenhaver,  
Licensed Lay Minister**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or email:  
[randynmel5@gmail.com](mailto:randynmel5@gmail.com)

- **Youth Volleyball Champs!**

Season record 5-1 AND First place at tournament  
Immanuel/Bethel received sportsmanship award

At the tournament we had:

Carolyn Riesterer	Armond Wempner
Trenton Rabe	Merri Wempner
McKensie Hickman	McKenzie Biwan
Julie Mueller	

Additional throughout the season:

Greg Schultz	Harrison Zorn
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Coach – Steven Volland Assistant Coach – Laura Mueller

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

\*\*The Bethlehem UCC Ladies are hosting their annual guest night on Tuesday, September 20th. Our guest speaker is Nancy Zimmerman who will be speaking about the history of Kiel. We will begin the evening with a complimentary lunch at 6:00 pm and Nancy's presentation to follow. Lunch will consist of broasted chicken, rolls, salads and dessert. Men and women of the congregation and the community are invited to join us. Please invite your family and friends!! There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call/text Polly Jeanty at 920-286-2605 by Sunday, Sept 18th. Hope to see you there!

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> "Faith in the Fall" Music Festival at Our Shepherd UCC in Howards Grove 10am – 2pm. Music all day, 50/50 Raffle, Basket Raffles, Children's Activity & Game Area. \*Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will be donated to the Sheboygan County Food Bank. Canned Goods for the Food Bank will also be collected. Menu for the event include pulled pork, turkey sandwiches, hot dogs, homemade beans, macaroni and cheese, potato salad and tortes. Please bring a lawn chair. For more information, please go to [www.ourshepherducc.com](http://www.ourshepherducc.com)

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Bethel UCC on County Line Road is having their annual Drive-Thru Chili Supper on Wednesday, October 5th from 11:00 am until 6:30 pm or until chili is gone. - Tickets are \$9.00 each.

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

**Today Sunday 8/28:** 9:30am Worship;

**Monday 8/29:** ~Happy Anniversary Rich & Lori Schmitt!

**Tuesday 8/30:** ~Happy Birthday Lee Watson!

**Wednesday 8/31:**

**Thursday 9/1:**

**Friday 9/2:** ~Happy Birthday Tony Tesch!

**Saturday 9/3:** ~Happy Birthday Brian Witkowski and Wyatt Snyder!

**Sunday 9/4:** 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;

**August Pantry Items: Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling**