



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

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, February 26, 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: #556

"Surely the Presence..."

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*LITANY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (written by Fran Pratt, 2016)

Oh God, we are reminded this day of the temporality of our lives here on the earth.

We are dust and to dust we will return.

It is by your Spirit and your power that we are given life.

You are the source of all hope and life.

We enter now a season of repentance.

That we may turn from selfishness.

We set aside some comforts

That we may turn our attention to Your holiness.

Cast now our transgressions far from us

As far as the east is from the west.

We mourn the profound disconnection from You that happened at the dawn of humankind.

Bring us back into Your presence.

We rejoice in the perfect work of Christ on earth.

Christ reconciles us to You.

Prepare our hearts, Oh God, for Resurrection life.

You bring beauty from ashes.

Prepare our hearts for the joy of Your coming.

You bring gladness from mourning.

Prepare our hearts for the fullness of Your presence.

You bring forth praise from despair. Amen

*ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER: (Written by Christine Sine, 2020)

Jesus come and save us.

We are marked with ashes,

We are but dust,

Only you can change our unclean souls.

Bring us to repentance,

Wash away the scars,

Plant seeds in the desert,

Bring life where death once reigned.

Cleanse us with the water of life.

Transform us God of all.

Restore our sight,

Renew our planet,

Teach us truth.

Speak words that bring wholeness,

To us,

To our communities,

To the earth our island home.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES-IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(During the opening hymn, you are invited forward for the imposition of ashes. Please come one row at time so there are always people in the pews singing. If you wish to have the ashes imposed on the back of your hand rather than your forehead, please extend it when you come forward.)

*OPENING HYMN #467 all

“Abide with Me”

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Source of Grace, we confess that sometimes when we're tempted, we don't resist. Sometimes when we could do good, we don't because it

seems too hard. These are the times that we need your grace the most. Instead of giving up on us, you transform us as we open ourselves to you. For grace that abounds as needed, when needed, we give you thanks. Amen.

(silent reflection)

WORDS OF GRACE

All that God made is good. God made us and we are empowered to be good and to do good. **Grace and mercy make goodness possible always and in all ways. Amen.**

*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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7;

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.” ’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Psalm 32 p. 613- Leader reads odd verses, people read even verses, everyone read v. 11

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written,

“One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SERMON

*HYMN #173 all "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle change for February goes to the Sunday school's Leprosy mission)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Doxology" (Written by GW Dub Shepherd, 2006)
**Praise God throughout these forty days,
Praise Christ, Our Lord, whom God did raise,
And praise the Spirit who imparts,
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Divine One, receive our gifts from the open hearts from which we give them. Thank you for blessing us with gifts to share, so that good works can abound. We offer our gifts gladly. May what we give be used to meet the needs of all. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...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.

*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

POSTLUDE

**Elements and liturgies for today's service were used with permission from ucc.org, <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>, and as noted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy and his family will be out of the state from March 9-14. Should you need emergency pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Nicole Herda of St. Peters UCC, Kiel. Her phone # is (920)242-8308.
- Rural Church Fellowship is planning a youth game night for students 7th-12th grade. It will be held at Our Shepherd's UCC in Howards Grove on Sunday, March 19 from 5p-7p. Pizza will be served. FREE!! Let Randy know if you will be attending and if you need a ride on the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Bring a friend!
- During the season of Lent, Prayer Stations will be offered on Wednesday's from 9a-7pm. The stations are self-guided and will be set up in the middle Sunday School room. Please come and engage in spiritual practice and quiet contemplation.
- Been attending awhile, but not a member? Bethlehem will be holding a "New-Member Sunday" sometime this Spring. Watch the bulletin and Blurb for details!

The Bethlehem Ladies are taking orders for Easter Flowers.

The flowers will be in church on Palm Sunday and need to be taken home on Easter Sunday which is April 9th. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Last Sunday to sign up is **TODAY!!**

Please pay Jeanette Wriedt by cash or checks made to Bethlehem Ladies.

2023 Bethlehem UCC Leadership Team

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

Elder - Traci Rabe (920)894-7903 or trabefamily5@gmail.com

Elder – Open Position – Prayerfully consider serving your Bethlehem family

Deacon - Ross Westphalen (920)629-0193 rossw@forhealthycows.com

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

Financial Secretary - Ruthie Rumpff (920)946-5849 srumpff@tm.net
Treasurer - Jane Umland (920)286-2175 jm59umland@gmail.com
Pastor - Randy Koppenhaver (920)286-2531 randynmel5@gmail.com



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Dale Spindler (Father of Dawn Wirtz; Brother of Darlean Rumpff)

Those struggling with health issues:

Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Finn	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
Tom Rabe	John Buchholz

Those unable to worship with us: Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

- Other Concerns:**
- Victims of violence
 - Victims of recent natural disasters, especially victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
 - People affected by war and/or oppression (Esp. Ukraine)

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There are flyers on the bulletin board regarding a grief support group at Holy Family in Manitowoc, Cancer support groups, and sessions for those interested in foster parenting.
- Sat. March 4 – Brat Fry and Cornhole Tournament – 11a-4pm – Laack’s Hall, Johnsonville – sponsored by Saron UCC
- Saturday, March 4 – 4p-10p. InCourage (domestic abuse shelter) Domestic Chef Charity Event – Held at The Venue at Union Square, Manitowoc. Compete or just partake – See bulletin board for more details!
- Pancake Breakfast – Sunday 3/12 – 9a-noon - Holy Trinity Parish, School Hill
- Saturday, 3/17 – Woman’s Day program 9am – Zion Lutheran Church, New Holstein.

- Upcoming Class
Do you have a fear of falling or losing your balance? The Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore, along with Bethlehem UCC Church is offering Stepping On, a 7 week workshop, beginning Thursdays, April 13th-May 25th from 1:00-3:00pm. Trained leaders and community professionals guide you in recognizing your risk of falling by identifying fall hazards in the home and community, help you build the balance, strength and practical skills you need to avoid a fall, how to safely get up from a fall, identify vision, footwear and medication management risks, and how to manage safely in inclement weather. The cost is a suggested \$10 donation. Please contact the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore at 1-877-416-7083 for more information or to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LAKELAND UNIVERSITY - see flyers on bulletin board for more info.

2/28 – 6:30-8pm Rescheduled Founder’s Day Lecture – 2nd Floor of Younger Campus Ctr.

3/26 - Bus trip to Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center- Leaving Lakeland at 8am

Disaster relief:

You can make a donation to the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response”. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. You can mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note “Turkey and Syria” on your check in the memo section. You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 2/26: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a WISE team; 9:30am Worship;

Monday 2/27:

Tuesday 2/28: ~Happy Birthday Alexis Horneck and Karen Schlegel!!

Wednesday 3/1: 9a-7pm Prayer Stations; 6pm Confirmation Class; ~Happy Birthday Peyton Koppenhaver and Greyson Hoban!

Thursday 3/2:

Friday 3/3:

Saturday 3/4:

Sunday 3/5: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:30a WISE team; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

March Pantry Items:

Box of pasta, noodles, rice or crackers