



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, July 2, 2023

Worship Leader: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Polly Jeanty

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 "God Bless the USA" Polly Jeanty (lyrics on last page)

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

LITANY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY (written by Rev. Rick Morley)

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

We thank you Lord.

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

We thank you Lord.

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

We thank you Lord.

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

We thank you Lord.

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,
We thank you Lord.

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,
We thank you Lord.

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,
We thank you Lord.

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,
We thank you Lord.

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,
We thank you Lord.

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

We pray to you Lord.

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,
We pray to you Lord.

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,
We pray to you Lord.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,
We pray to you Lord.

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,
We pray to you Lord.

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN #299 all

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee ”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of all life and each life, We confess we can forget that life is your gift, especially when we face struggles or feel hurt by others. We confuse our own desires for your will, and stop listening for your guidance. Forgive any hurt we have caused by action or inaction, and show us how to make amends. May we live with you and with each other in reconciling grace through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time of reflection...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Jesus knows we have fallen short of his intentions for us, yet in his great mercy, he welcomes us back into his embrace.

Thanks be to God that we are forgiven, refreshed and restored for ministry by God's grace.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #558 "Gloria Patri"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.'

Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18

- ¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
- ² **I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**
- ³ You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
- ⁴ **"I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations."** '
- ¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;
- ¹⁶ **they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness.**
- ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favor our horn is exalted.
- ¹⁸ **For our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Matthew 10:40-42

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

SERMON

*HYMN #289 all

"Help us to Accept Each Other"

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(The Communion Liturgy for General Synod 34
was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian.)

(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

One: The Spirit of Creation is with you!

Many: And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.

One: Open wide your souls.

Many: We open them to the Creator's love.

One: Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.

Many: With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise.

PRAYER OF COMMUNION

We delight with our Holy God on this earth,... With glory to our God, we praise the Spirit of Creation:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Spirit of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water,
Heaven and Earth delights in your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna.**

**Blessed is the one who brings love and light to our world.
Hosanna to our God. Alleluia!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, Divine Designer- With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.

RESPONSE #525 Refrain only

“One Bread, One Body”

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of July supports the Bethlehem Ladies and their Christmas Mission Project)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #438 v. 1 “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Spirit of God, When we share from our souls, we open our hearts to your works in this world. When we tend to our neighbors who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst. When we welcome the prophet who shares your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they build your Realm here on earth. 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Pastor Randy will be in MN at a family reunion and unavailable from July 10-16. Please contact Rev. Nicole Herda if you require pastoral care.(920-242-8308)

MISSION PROJECT:

In many parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty – lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies. During the menstrual cycle, these hygiene materials are especially important to healthy practices. Not having supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, soap and disposable plastic bags can create challenges that lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions. During the months of June, July, and August our Bethlehem family will be collecting menstrual hygiene supplies and will then assemble these kits as part of our Mission Fest Sunday. Supplies can be brought to church during these months. See the flyer at church for the list of needed supplies.

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 - Lee Watson (920)562-0588 or lwatson@kiel.k12.wi.us

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

Social Action Spotlight – July 2023 – From the Presbyterian Church of Canada

Housing Equity For All

Have you seen what happens when a home has an unlevel foundation? Walls and floors separate. Concrete cracks. Load-bearing walls tilt. It does not feel safe and secure. For some, this is what it looks like to try to access secure and adequate housing.

Systemic housing inequity is the result of many factors, including racism, economic disparity and access to education, employment and income. As a result, racialized and Indigenous communities, people with disabilities, womanled single parent families, lone seniors and people experiencing domestic violence or human trafficking face much higher levels of housing insecurity. These factors are far beyond the control of any one person or family and point to a broken, unlevel societal foundation where housing is treated as a commodity instead of a necessity. Without secure housing, human health suffers and social and economic wellbeing diminish.

Attaining housing equity for all requires that we reframe how we think about housing: a safe and adequate home is a right for all people. As a society, we are collectively responsible for building a level and just foundation so that no one faces housing insecurity. There are steps we can take to advocate for this just foundation.

What can you do?

- Advocate that elected officials approach housing as a human right, combined with appropriate benefits and services that are trauma-informed, culturally appropriate and reflective of the diverse lived experiences of those most vulnerable to housing insecurity to adequately address systemic barriers to affordable housing.
- Get involved and support cooperative and/or social housing initiatives in your community. Work to ensure that these initiatives are actually meeting the needs of those in your community who live with housing insecurity.
- Sample letters are available from presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

We've had several Bethlehem high school students participating at State athletic competitions this Spring!

Zoe Watson - Track

Lily Watson - Track

Dylan Jeanty - Baseball

Harrison Zorn - Baseball

Kenzie Koppenhaver – Soccer

Kendra Muehlbauer - Soccer

Families who have lost loved ones:

Rose Wedero

Those struggling with health issues:

Heidi Konen

Marie Rietbrock

Bob Radder

Daisy Sippel

Darlean Rumpff

Darlene Horneck

Doreen Schmidt

Helen Henning

Tom Lefeber

Hattie Lucille

Jessica Horneck

Sandra Tesch

Dawson Horneck

Gary Steinhardt

Crystal (Friend of Randy/Melissa) Brenda Voland

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Community Announcements

Ice Cream Social Supper – Wed. July 12 – 4pm-6:30pm – Ebenezer UCC, Chilton –
Preorder and Carryout only – see flyer for details

God Bless the USA

If tomorrow all the things were gone
I worked for all my life
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife

I thank my lucky stars
To be living here today
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away

And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend Her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt
I love this land
God Bless the U.S.A.

From the lakes of Minnesota
To the hills of Tennessee
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea

From Detroit down to Houston
And New York to L.A.
Where's pride in every American heart
And it's time we stand and say

That I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend Her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt
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God Bless the U.S.A.

Source: [LyricFind](#) Songwriters: Lee Melvin Greenwood

God Bless the USA lyrics © Peermusic Publishing, Warner Chappell Music, Inc

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 7/2: 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;

Monday 7/3:

Tuesday 7/4: INDEPENDENCE DAY!! ~Happy Birthday Doris Rabe!

Wednesday 7/5:

Thursday 7/6: ~Happy Birthday Jason Brockway and Cody Dalka! Happy Anniversary Warren & Diane Fidlin!

Friday 7/7: ~Happy Anniversary Mark & Dawn Wirtz and Aaron & Rachel Suttner!

Saturday 7/8:

Sunday 7/9: 8:30am WISE team; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;

**July Pantry Items:
School Supplies**