

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, July 3, 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 for Independence Day**

L: We gather this morning appreciating our freedom to worship God.

P: May God continue to bless the Church of Christ in this land.

L: We draw near to the God who rules over all nations

P: May God continue to bless our country and all the countries in the world.

L: We seek to live in harmony and peace together with all peoples on the earth.

P: May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us understand that it begins in our hearts.

L: Come, let us worship the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER - *Independence Day Prayer:

Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom and justice and brotherhood for all who make it great. Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from compromise, fear and confusion.

Be close to our president and our representatives, give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions effecting peace and the future of our world. Make me more deeply aware of my heritage realizing not only my rights but also my duties and responsibilities as a citizen.

Make this great land and all its people know clearly your will, that they may fulfill the destiny ordained for us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: #301 “America the Beautiful”**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

SILENT CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Alleluia! Amen.

***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

Psalm 33: 12-22

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Romans 13: 1-5

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if

you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

SERMON - "Giving Thanks for the U.S.A."

*HYMN #299 "My Country Tis of Thee"

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion:

Come to a table not defined by wood or stone but by what rests upon it — which is the "me" of Christ.

Come unto me because any burden is heavy to the one who is under it.

Come unto me with the burden of a crowded life or a lonely one.

Come unto me, with a child's burden of frustration or hunger, of abuse or embarrassment.

Come unto me with a burden of grief — for the death of a beloved person or a companion animal, for an ability you have no longer, or a relationship needing reconciliation.

Come unto me with the burden of a disappointment, even one that doesn't seem significant enough, or a fear deeper than words.

Come unto the "me" of Christ with any burden —for here is rest for the weary, lightening of suffering, gentleness, and guidelines for becoming gentle.

Here is a yoke of responsibility that can be lifted because of a small piece of bread and a sip of the cup of hope.

SHARING of the BREAD and WINE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

I thank You, Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, for having been pleased, through no merit of mine, but of Your great mercy alone, to feed me, a sinner, and Your unworthy servant, with the precious Body and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Holy Communion may not be for my judgment and condemnation, but for my pardon and salvation. Let this Holy Communion be to me an armor of faith and a shield of good will, a cleansing of all vices, and a rooting out of all evil desires. May it increase love and patience, humility and obedience, and all virtues. May it be a firm defense against the evil designs of all my visible and invisible enemies, a perfect quieting of all the desires of soul and body. May this Holy Communion bring about a perfect union with You, the one true God, and at last enable me to reach eternal bliss when You will call me. I pray that You bring me, a sinner, to the indescribable Feast where You, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, are to Your saints true light, full blessedness, everlasting joy, and perfect happiness. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING - *Offerings are collected before and after worship in the Fellowship Hall. The basket is located near the double doors to the sanctuary.*

Jesus draws us from the margins into a great feast; he draws us out of a crowd, to healing; he draws us from death to new life. Each day, God finds the way that we need to be loved and challenged, and then calls us to minister to others in warm hospitality, healing mercies, and the promise of resurrection and new life. We respond to this marvelous call through our giving this day. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

*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

Lord Almighty, you are the supreme ruler of the Earth! You can make nations bow down to your will. You shine your luminescent light on the righteous and spread gladness of heart to those who are good. You have the omnipotent power to move majestic mountains and to calm the stormy seas. You rescue us from wickedness when we praise and worship your works. We acknowledge the strength of your spirit in our lives by giving these tithes and offerings. May you enrich these gifts with your blessing. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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, as well as our free country

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 in a land where we are free to believe. 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. 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.

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 HYMN “God Bless America”**

**God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above**

**From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home**

**God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above**

**From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home**

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Irving Berlin

God Bless America lyrics © Concord Music Publishing LLC, Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

BENEDICTION Psalm 37:3-6

Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:
Give more thanks than criticisms for the country of your birth.
He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.

POSTLUDE



**Pastor Randy will be on vacation from June 29-July 10.
Please contact Pastor Roy during this time if you have any pastoral needs.**

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven Voland (920)286-0162 or svoland44@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

JULY JINGLE CHANGE supports The Bethlehem Ladies “Christmas Cheer” project

Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Everett Henning

Those struggling with health issues:

Nikki (Friend of Bonnie Z)

Tom Lefeber

Glen Schad

Signe Burkhart

Kenzie Koppenhaver

Hattie Lucille

Warren Fidlin

Jane Markelz

Dana P (friend of Melissa K)

Bennett (Grandson of Schmidts)

Steve Kornely

Steve Rumpff

Jessica Horneck

Janice Schad

Darlene Horneck

Karl(nephew of Will and Lora)

Helen Henning

Olivia Marie

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:

- *The Deignan family wishes to thank all those in the congregation for the kind words cards and gifts celebrating the arrival of Elizabeth Lynn. Also, they'd like to invite everybody to the July 10 service to witness Elizabeth's baptism. Peace and love to all!*



- Reminder! Please check and empty your church mailbox.
- The blue and yellow candle on the altar is lit in unity with the people of the Ukraine.
- ***Field of Dreams is currently closed to visitors again. Please hold Merlin and Doris Mae in your prayers.***
- **Bethlehem Youth Fellowship Summer Volleyball:**
 JULY 3rd - BYE WEEK FOR ALL TEAMS
 July 10, 2022 – 6:30pm Saron @ Bethlehem
 July 17, 2022 – 6:30pm Bethlehem @ St. Marks/St. James
 July 24, 2022 – 6:30pm Immanuel/Bethel @ Bethlehem
 Tournament date – Aug 7th, 2022 at Immanuel at NOON
 Coaches/captains meeting @ 11:45 a.m.

Bethlehem's Spiritual Leadership:

Reverend Roy Rogers

Phone: 920.428.0183 or
 email: rogersr671@gmail.com

**Randy Koppenhaver,
 Licensed Lay Minister**

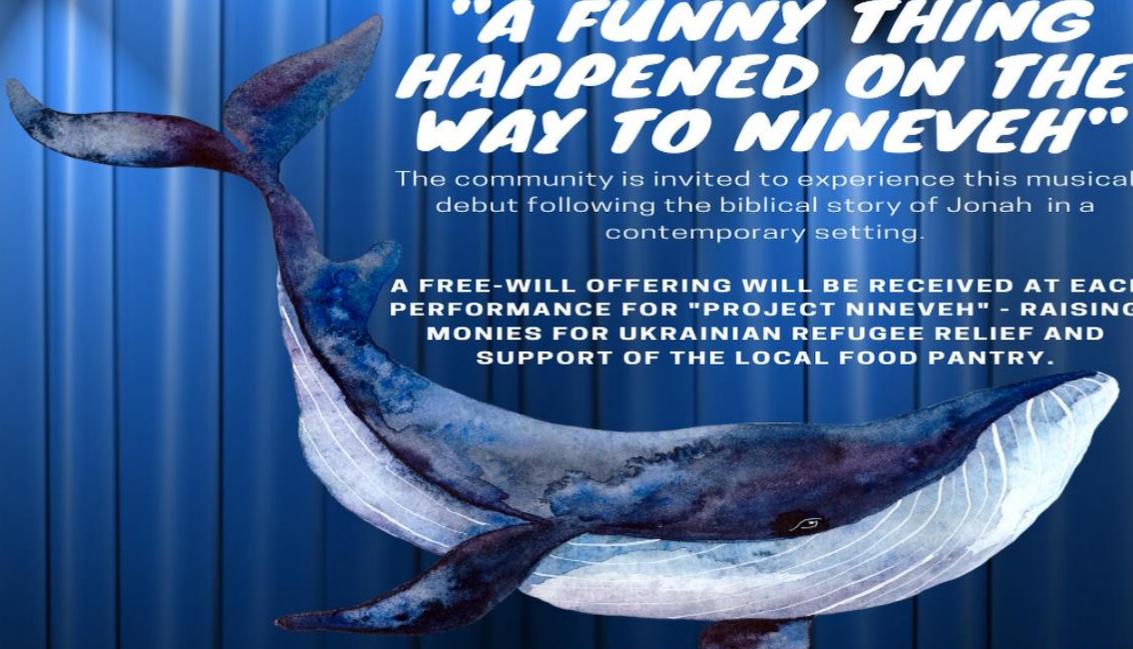
Phone: 920.286.2531 or
 email:
randynmel5@gmail.com

Community Announcements:

July 13 – 4p-6p – Ice Cream Social Supper (Carryout only) Ebenezer UCC, Chilton

OUR LADY OF THE HOLYLAND PARISH – ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH (JOHNSBURG) – CHICKEN & TIPS

TAKE-OUT DINNER: Sunday, July 17th served from 11:00AM – 1:00PM. Blanck's chicken and dressing and Jim and Linda's beef tips, potatoes, & corn. \$17 per plate. TAKE-OUT ONLY, no dining in. Pre-orders preferred - call to place your preorder by July 9th [Kelly 920-539-6886, or Sharon 920-795-4728]. Only 500 meals will be sold! Cash or check only. Raffle ticket drawing @ 2:00PM. Hope to see you there! N9288 County Road W, Malone (Johnsburg).



AN ORIGINAL PRODUCTION ...

"A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO NINEVEH"

The community is invited to experience this musical debut following the biblical story of Jonah in a contemporary setting.

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED AT EACH PERFORMANCE FOR "PROJECT NINEVEH" - RAISING MONIES FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEE RELIEF AND SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY.

Friday, July 15 at 7PM
Saturday, July 16 at 7PM
Sunday, July 17 at 2PM

Location: Salem United Church of Christ
217 Salem Drive, Plymouth, WI
 (920) 892-7456

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 7/3: 9:30am Worship w/ Communion

Monday 7/4: ~Happy Birthday Doris Rabe!

Tuesday 7/5:

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

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

Friday 7/8:

Saturday 7/9:

Sunday 7/10: 9:30am Worship; Youth Vball HOME vs. Saron

July Pantry Items: School Supplies

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