



The message  
about the cross  
is foolishness  
to those who  
are perishing,  
but to us who  
are being saved  
it is the  
power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18, NBSV

# Bethlehem United Church of Christ

**Sunday, March 27, 2022**

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

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

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

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ.

**People: We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**

Leader: Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

**People: Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.**

Leader: Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.

**People: Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might find the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.**

\* OPENING PRAYER

Pr: Let us pray. **Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see in the sufferings and shortcomings of our lives a share in Your Cross; strengthen and console us in the belief that we bear all things in union with You, who have taken upon Yourself even our guilt. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN "When I Survey the Wonderful Cross" #170 verses 1-2

## READING OF SCRIPTURE

### First Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON "3 Wrong Turns"

HYMN "Jesus Keep me Near the Cross" #347 vs 1-2

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Look around us today, at this gathering. We are a community of people who want to follow Jesus. We share so much with those early Christians who "struggled in the work of the gospel" but also found joy in the Lord, joy in the life they shared together. No matter what we are carrying this morning, or what we face, we are not alone. At this moment in our worship, we're invited to share what we have so that others will find the same welcome, and the same joy that we have known. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise

\*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 give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.  
In the upside down world of the gospel,  
we measure our wealth not by what we have,  
but what we can give away.**

**Let us give away generously, in this offering,  
To bless your church, your people, your creation.**

(Source: Quentin Chin, United Church of Christ website)

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

*Darkness and Light: A Responsive Prayer by Carol Penner*

In the darkness before creation,  
you made all that lives and breathes.

In the darkness of Mary's womb,  
you formed Jesus, bringer of light.

In the darkness of our world your spirit sustains us.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

Under the cover of darkness,

Magi followed the star to the Christ-child.

We come from the East and we come from the West,  
following you on our different roads,

following the same star to the same place.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

In the stillness of the dark,

we pray for all who need God's presence in a special way—  
people who cannot find work,

who cannot pay their bills,

who have no place to live,

people who are discouraged and hopeless,

people who have become cynical and bitter.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

We live in this world in our bodies,

we rejoice in life and breath,

yet when sickness or pain cripples us,

we lose our bearings, we feel lost and bewildered.

We need your presence to keep us safe.

Be with those who are sick, especially \_\_\_\_\_.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

Thank you for moments of inspiration,

for moments of clear vision

where we see who we are and who we are meant to be,

where we see where we are, and where you want us to go.

Give us courage to take the journey that you call us to,

and give us strength on the road.

**O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.**

Your presence sustains us,  
help us to go from worship this morning,  
having seen your face,  
having done homage to your goodness,

**We are confident in the work you are doing  
in us and through us,  
for your kingdom come,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please wait to be dismissed by an usher. Thank you.)

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

Elder/President - Steve 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)

### **Jingle Change Update**

**At the March consistory meeting, it was decided that collections in March would be given the UCC's Ukrainian Relief Fund rather than OCWM. We will continue this collection through April. We also encourage support of One Great Hour of Sharing, which will be done with envelopes rather than Jingle Change.**

**OGHS is non-denominational and supports disaster relief, refugee crises, hunger, etc.**

**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**



**Joys:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Jody Nenahlo  
Dale Horneck

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Steve Kornely	Glen Schad
Signe Burkhart	Hailey Wirtz
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck
Hattie Lucille	
Elizabeth Loose	Warren Fidlin
Jane Markelz	Olivia Marie
Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)	Everett Henning
Steve Rumpff	Helen Henning
Jessica Horneck	

**Those unable to worship with us:**

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer  
Leah Henning – Deployed to Japan

UPDATE: Field of Dreams is NOW ACCEPTING visitors. Please arrange a visit with Merlin and Doris Mae and continue to keep them in your prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PIZZA PARTY with ICE CREAM SUNDAES**

Sunday, April 3rd - following worship service - Everyone is invited

See the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall

Sponsored by Merry Christians

Leah Henning is stationed in Japan. Send cards and letters to: (standard US postage rates)  
Sgt. Leah Henning  
31st MEU CE S-3  
Unit 35621  
FPO, AP 96385-5621

## Upcoming Community Events:

**PORK CHOP DINNER!!** Thursday, March 31 – 4p-7pm – Drive Thru Smoked Pork Chop Dinner @ Saron UCC- Reservations required: call Joan (920-946-4652) or Judy (920-980-0748) Cost is \$12.00

## **Kiel Community Center News:**

**Meals on Wheels is again serving in person dining at the Kiel Community center.** If you are 60 yrs. and over and would like to join other for a delicious lunch and a few laughs please call Missy at 894-7861 by noon prior to the day you would like to eat here. Please see the attached menu.

**Guest speaker series:** held at the community center upper level the first Monday of the month.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>:** Guest speaker **Joe Zenk and LuAnn Travis** will talk about bereavement and hospice

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** A representative from the Kiel VFW will be here

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today Sunday 3/27:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

**Monday 3/28:**;

**Tuesday 3/29:** ~Happy Birthday Everett Henning!!

**Wednesday 3/30:** 6pm Confirmation Class ~Happy Anniversary Joe & Doreen Schmidt!

**Thursday 3/31:**

**Friday 4/1:**

**Saturday 4/2:**

**Sunday 4/3:** 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship w/ Communion ~Happy Birthday Tyler Hanson, Vanessa Nenahlo, Ann Moore, Shari Wilharms, and Nicole Watson!

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