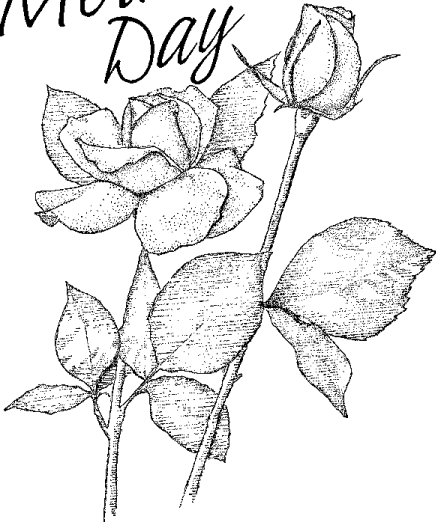


Mother's
Day



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, May 14, 2023

Worship Leader: Pastor 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 #549

“As We Gather”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the day to honor mothers.

All: Celebrate with us, Loving God.

One: This is the day to give thanks for our parents and grandparents.

All: Celebrate with us, Caring God.

One: This is the day to remember our whole family.

All: Celebrate with us, God of Fellowship.

One: This is the day to rejoice in our church.

All: Celebrate with us, Faithful God.

One: This is the day to recall the whole human family.

All: Celebrate a sharing world, Universal God.

***OPENING PRAYER**

One: With the loving vulnerability of a tiny baby,

All: we open ourselves to you, O God.

One: With the infinite curiosity of a growing child,

All: we search for you, O God.

One: With the joyful responsibility of young parents,

All: we rely on you, O God.

One: With the reflective experience of maturity,

All: we sense your presence, O God.

One: With the creaking wisdom of advancing years,

All: we rest in a hope strong and secure.

**In our living, in our forgiving, in our loss and in our dying,
we look to you, O Eternally Present One.**

*OPENING HYMN #259 (vs. 1,2,4,5,) "For the Beauty of the Earth"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love, we are grateful for the love you bless us with in our homes
and families. Yet you know family life is not always easy.**

Our love for each another gets strained some days.

Forgive us if we have taken our family for granted.

Give us grace to repair relationships where strain is showing.

(time of silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God's love for families and God's compassion
is experienced in the testing situations of family life.

**All: We recognize God's compassionate love alive within the family circle. We
want to be those persons in whom God's love is found, and through whom
that love is expressed.**

One: God will grant you peace in your own time of trouble, and the ability to bring
peace to others.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #571 "Halle, Halle Hallelujah!"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all

things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of his praise be
heard,

⁹ **who has kept us among the
living, and has not let our feet
slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;**

¹² you let people ride over our
heads; we went through fire and
through water; yet you have brought
us out to a spacious place.

¹³ **I will come into your house with
burnt-offerings; I will pay you my
vows,**

¹⁴ those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I
was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer to you burnt-**

**offerings of fatlings, with the
smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls
and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear
God, and I will tell what he has done
for me.

¹⁷ **I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my
tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my
heart, the Lord would not have
listened.

¹⁹ **But truly God has listened;
he has given heed to the words
of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God,
**because he has not rejected my
prayer or removed his steadfast
love from me.**

John 14:15-21

15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

SERMON

*HYMN #247 all "Come Thou Almighty King"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petitions end with: "God with a loving heart, **Hear our 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 May supports the Guest House of Milwaukee Men's shelter)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Doxology" Text: John H. Danner (2016)

Let trumpets sound and voices sing!

Let all on earth their praises bring!

For Christ has conquered sin and death

And given life eternal breath. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Wherever we are, O God – home, church, work, friendship group, you go with us.

All: You encourage us to discover ways to use all our gifts, and when we have decided, you inspire us to work diligently to help the suffering and despairing ones.

One: Our gifts will receive a blessing, and be a blessing to many;

All: for they belong to you, our Gracious God. 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

One: The blessing of God, Source of Love, Creator of families, rest within your family.

**All: The blessing of Jesus Christ,
acceptor of least as well as greatest,
bringer of peace, securer of hope, will
encourage our family living.**

One: The blessing of the Holy Spirit,
inspiration to the downhearted, eternal worker for good, will
bring joy and challenge to your family.

All: God be praised!

POSTLUDE

**Liturgies and prayers used with permission from: <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> and Sparks, David. Prayers to Share: Year A. Wood Lake, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Please join us next Sunday BEFORE worship as we welcome our new members! Donuts, coffee, etc will be served around 9am.
- Building & Grounds meeting Monday 5/15 at 6:30 PM

- Next youth activity: Sunday, May 21- 5p-7 @ Bethel UCC – Outdoor activities including volleyball and bonfire. Sign up in fellowship hall
- We are in need of delegates to attend the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake from June 9-11. You can attend only part of the weekend if that works better. Please let Pastor Randy if you are interested in attending.
- Please let Pastor Randy know of any members who are graduating (High school or higher education). We like to honor them in early June.

It's Time for the Undy 500 –

Donations go to the Guest House of Milwaukee (Homeless Shelter)

All items must be NEW and extra-large sizes are highly needed (2XL, 3XL, 4XL, etc.)

- **Men's Underwear - BOXERS and BOXER BRIEFS ONLY**

No briefs (“tighty whiteys”) can be accepted

- **Men's Undershirts**
- **Women's Underwear**
- **Sports Bras**
- **All items size 2XL or larger will receive one bonus point per item!**



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Brat Fry – Friday, May 26 – 9a-2:30p – at Miesfeld’s, Sheboygan for St. John’s UCC, Schwarzwald

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

Members of Bethlehem, Thank you so much for the faith and trust you’ve placed in me over the past seven years. It is my privilege to be your **settled** pastor! Thank you also for the gifts I received at installation. I love them! May God bless you all! - Pastor Randy



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

The baptism of Emma Marie Reis on 5/7/23. Parents are Abbi and Ben Reis.

For Lillie Brockway, Ryan Holz, Cooper Tesch and Logan Tesch who affirmed their baptisms through the Rite of Confirmation on 4/30/23.

The baptism of Piercy Edward Hoepfer Heugel on 4/23/23. He is the grandson of Jane & Scott Umland.

Families who have lost loved ones:

Those struggling with health issues:

Shirley Henschel	Scott Umland
Bob Radder	Daisy Sippel
Darlean Rumpff	Darlene Horneck
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Jessica Horneck	Sandra Tesch
Dawson Horneck	Gary Steinhardt
John Buchholz	
Crystal (Friend of Randy/Melissa)	

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

Other Concerns:

- Victims of violence
- Victims of recent natural disasters
- People affected by war and/or oppression (Esp. Ukraine)

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 5/14: 8:00 Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Sarah Arnold and Brenda Riesterer!

Monday 5/15: 6:30p Building and Grounds Committee

Tuesday 5/16: 5pm Bethlehem Ladies at Riverview Restaurant

Wednesday 5/17: **SPIRIT NEWS DUE**

Thursday 5/18:

Friday 5/19: ~Happy Birthday Melanie Volland! Happy Anniversary Ben & Cassie Jeanty!

Saturday 5/20:

Sunday 5/21: 8:00 Sunday School; 8:00 New member meeting; 9:30am Worship w/ New Members; ~Happy Birthday Allison Wirtz! Happy Anniversary Merlin & Doris Mae Nimmer!

May Pantry Items:

Laundry Detergent or Fabric Softener