



**BETHLEHEM UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

11608 Lax Chapel Road - Kiel, WI 53042

Phone: 920.894.3332

Email: BethUCCKiel@outlook.com

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, September 10, 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 #555

“Sanctuary”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 149 from ucc.org)

One: Let our praise today be made new.

Many: May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak and hear a new word.

One: Let the faithful delight in the Holy One's marvelous acts

Many: From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.

One: Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

Many: Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!

*OPENING PRAYER (ucc.org)

God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in your presence. May we acknowledge you in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide us a vision of your reign on earth and in our lives. Make us your witnesses to a world in need of hope and peace. Infuse us with your love, and may this time gathered as your people transform us to reflect your goodness in the world. Amen.

*HYMN #48 v. 1,2,4

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS (UMC.org)

Leader:

Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here.... And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students.

They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well.

We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (presbyterian.ca/worship/)

God of majesty and mercy, although Christ offers us peace, we confess we are a people divided. We harbor fears and jealousy which set neighbor against neighbor, nation against nation. We pursue profit and pleasures which harm creation and the wellbeing of less privileged peoples. Have mercy upon us, O God. Set us free from our old ways to serve you - as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Time of reflection...

WORDS OF GRACE (presbyterian.ca/worship/)

The Apostle Paul challenges us to lay aside actions and deeds that distance us from God and one another and to put on the armor of light.

Know that you are forgiven by God's grace. So walk in God's mercy. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

³⁶ **Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.

³⁸ **Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

⁴⁰ **See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.**

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if

two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

LITANY FOR VOLUNTEERS (Sunday School Teachers) By: Fran Pratt

*HYMN #442 v. 1,2,3,6

"The Servant Song"

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER... 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

(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

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKGIVING

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

COMMUNION RESPONSE #536 v2 "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"

*Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Refrain 2x: Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

CALL TO THE OFFERING (Jingle Change for the month of September supports the Rural Church Fellowship's CROP Walk for hunger.)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 282 "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ,
His Son (2 times)

And now...
let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done
for us" (2 times)

Give thanks... (2 times)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, receive these gifts, offered in a spirit of generosity and humility. Bless and use them for the work that you long to do in the world you love for Jesus' sake. 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.*

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Please note: Doris Mae Ninmer's new phone # is 920-286-3712

**Helen Henning new address: Lakehouse Senior Living – Suite 119, 950 Rapids Rd. – Manitowoc, WI 54420 (same building, new room)

Singers invited!!

Area UCC churches are again assembling a "Community Choir" for a holiday concert at St. Peter's UCC on Dec. 10 at 3:30pm. Bethlehem members are invited to practice with other area UCC choirs beginning in October. Please let Pastor Randy know if you'd like to participate.

MISSION TRIP!!! We have been invited to participate in a mission trip next summer with St. Peter's UCC and other area churches. The trip is open to 9th grade and above and will be part of ASP: Appalachia Service project. (www.asphome.org)

There will be a planning meeting on Sept. 11 at 6pm at St. Peters. Dates will be decided at that meeting. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in taking part in this trip.

Mission Fest – Sunday, October 8th - *Lunch will be provided for everyone participating.*

- Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 8th as we celebrate Mission Fest. This year's outreach activities will include:
 1. Assembling Period Packs
 2. Making sandwiches for Mission House
 3. Highway clean-up
 4. Playing BINGO at an assisted living facility

Bethlehem Ladies Annual Guest Night will be Tuesday, September 19th. The Guest Speaker will be from Harbor House. *Harbor House* Domestic Abuse Programs provides safe shelter and support services to survivors of domestic abuse in Northeast *Wisconsin*. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light lunch and speaker to follow. Please invite your friends and family to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

The Bethlehem Ladies are collecting items needed for the Harbor House Abuse Shelter. These items can be brought to church and placed in the basket at the entrance until Sunday, September 17th. There is a list of their current needs printed and placed by the basket at the front entrance for you to take. Thank you for your generosity!!

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

Community Announcements:

The Kiel Area Food Pantry, Inc (which provides food to anyone within the Kiel School District Area), has been experiencing the largest needs ever faced in our community. Last year in November they hit 42 households, in the last two months more than 80 households have needed support.

The pantry is ecumenical-- open to everyone. There is a huge need in our community. Each month boxes include cheese donated from Hennings and Sargento, butter donated by Pine River Dairy --- the pantry then purchases meat to add to the box. The months that normally see the most need are October, November and December.

The pantry has served an all-time high of 80+ households. If anyone does not want to do shopping, or would like to help donate money towards meat, cash donations are also welcome.

Kiel Area Community Food Pantry Inc Most needed items

Food:

1. Boxed Cereal (Adult or Children)
2. Canned Fruits /Applesauce
3. Hearty Soups (Chunky/Progresso)
4. Jam/Jelly/Peanut Butter
5. Pasta Sauce
6. Boxed Rice
7. Hamburger Helper
- 8 Baked Pork and Beans
9. Instant Potatoes
10. Knorr Side Dishes
- 11 Stuffing/Yams/Pie Filling/Cranberries (Thanksgiving is coming!)

Other Personal Care Items:

1. Kleenex
2. Toilet Paper
3. Toothpaste
4. Bar Soap
5. Shampoo/Conditioner

They currently have adequate supplies of Vegetables and Pasta.

- Wed. Oct 4 - Drive-Thru Chili Supper @ Bethel UCC – 11a-6:30pm



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

A joy for the birth of Nova Rosalyn Henning on Aug 23, 2023
Parents are Zachary and Kristi Henning. Proud Grandparents
are Kerry and Barb Henning!

Families who have lost loved ones:

Gaiden Schultz (Garrett's sister)

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
Molly	
Mary Beth Molitor	

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

Those affected by Hawaiian wildfires.

Those affected by hurricanes and tropical storms.

Those affected by recent gun violence, especially in Florida.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 9/10: 8am Sunday School; 8:30 Book Study; 9:30am Worship w/
Communion;

Monday 9/11: *Happy Birthday Kelly Ryba and Addison Salm!*

Tuesday 9/12: 6:30p Consistory; *Happy Birthday Traci Rabe and Molly Rabe!*

Wednesday 9/13: 6pm Confirmation (including parents and mentors)

Thursday 9/14: *~Happy Birthday Ben Jeanty!*

Friday 9/15: *~Happy Anniversary Louie & Kathy Bowe!*

Saturday 9/16:

Sunday 9/17: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship *~Happy Birthday Courtney Riesterer!*

September Pantry Items:

Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling

A blessing for the start of a new school year – by Kate Bowler

The year is tilting
toward the start of school again,
but truth be told,
we're not ready.

We're still hanging on to summer,
to the promise it held
for long-awaited connections and celebrations,
for refreshment for our bodies and souls
in water and sky and color and sunlight,
and all those little moments given to us
where we could linger just a little longer.

Now that it's almost over,
we don't want to let it go.
The beauty. The freedom.
All that was life-giving.

God, could you help us stretch it,
extend it,
and maybe even blend it
into this coming school year?

Parents, students, teachers, all,
may your newly-structured days
breathe with creativity,
your new duties be infused with delight.

As you write on those
fresh new calendars
may you trust that your plans
are a lot like magic ink.

Much may seem to
disappear into obscurity,
but whatever is done in love
will remain.