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**Sunday, September 12, 2021**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Roy Rogers**

**Organist: Kathy Bowe**

### **Bethlehem Safe Indoor Worship Guidelines**

- Masks = You decide what's best for you, your loved ones and those around you.
- Remain 6 feet apart from members outside of your family
- The congregation will refrain from singing (Humming is permitted)
- An offering plate will be available in a central location
- Please wait for an usher to dismiss you after the service.
- For those who wish to congregate, you are asked to do so outside
- Please stay home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well.
- Scrip will be available for purchase on the first and third Sundays. We ask that when purchasing scrip cards that only one person be at the scrip table at a time.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 55)**

Seek the Lord while God is to be found.

**Call upon God while God is near!**

Repent of unrighteous ways.

**It is never too late to turn to God!**

Get rid of evil thoughts.

**Let us turn to God, that God may have mercy on us!**

For God will pardon our sins and cleanse us of our transgressions.

**We will praise God for the new life we have found!**

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

\*OPENING PRAYER (Luke 13)

**Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being,  
and give us so many second chances in life.  
May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways.  
Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways,  
that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

SONG #22           “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (no singing, please)

READING OF SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 16:13-25**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

SERMON "Peter's Principle and Second Changes"

SONG #325

"Just As I Am"

(no singing, please)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER...THE LORD'S PRAYER

Father, thank you that you have brought each of us safely to this place.  
We gladly surrender our lives to you in worship and praise.

**HELP US TO SURRENDER AND SEE IT AS A VERY GOOD THING.**

As we gather we remember those who are not with us today -  
For those who are sick we ask for healing,  
And for those away from us we ask for your blessing to be on them.

**HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD, FOR THOSE WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT. (silence)**

We invite Your beautiful Holy Spirit to move freely among us.  
Come dwell in each of our hearts.  
Equip us, challenge us, comfort us, teach us.  
Inspire us as we learn more about your majestic ways.

**MAY WE NEVER FORGET THE WAYS YOU HAVE COME TO US, NOR YOUR  
PROMISE TO ALWAYS BE WITH US.**

Father, as we meet now may we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace.

**HELP US TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOU AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN THE  
WORLD AND NOT BE SO DISTRACTED BY THE EVER PESSIMISTIC, SECULAR NEWS  
SOURCES.**

We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus, using his prayer...

([https://www.living-prayers.com/events/congregational\\_prayer.html#ixzz75n6ThTid](https://www.living-prayers.com/events/congregational_prayer.html#ixzz75n6ThTid))

**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.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*(Please wait to be dismissed by the ushers. Thank you.)*

**Those in our thoughts and prayers:**

**Joys:**

**Families who have lost loved ones:**

Robert Cwiertniak (Mathes' son-in-law)

Kerilyn Hickman

**Those struggling with health issues:**

Merlin Ninmer

Helen Henning

Hattie Lucille

Everett Henning

Mary Vogel

Marilyn Hanke

Casey Litz (Cousin of Bonnie Zorn)

Warren Fidlin

Mother of Dawn Wirtz

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)

Mike Mathes

Tom Brickbauer

Macullen Schnell

Dale Horneck

Olivia Marie

Jessica Horneck

**Those unable to worship with us:** Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

**Other concerns:**

The many Americans affected by hurricane Ida

Those affected by wildfires

Americans lost and affected by recent militant attacks in Afghanistan

People of Afghanistan

People of Haiti

Division in the U.S.

Health Care workers

Those who are out of work

Racial Justice and equality in our country

Those whose businesses are struggling

People who live where violence and injustice prevails.

## 2021 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steve 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

SEPTEMBERS'S JINGLE CHANGE OFFERING SUPPORTS RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP'S CROP WALK, WHICH WORKS TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY ON BOTH A GLOBAL AND LOCAL SCALE.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Plan a visit to our homebound members!** Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer are at Field of Dreams in Kiel (286-6189) Call to arrange a visit.

Save the date:

Sept 15: First day of Confirmation Class (6pm)

Sept 19: Mission Sunday

Oct. 10: Crop Walk

### **Mission Sunday – Next week**

Next Sunday, Sept. 19, we will be holding our annual Mission and Service Sunday. Following the worship service, we will be working on small service projects. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so we can plan accordingly. A bag lunch will be provided. Projects will be:

- Picking up litter along Hwy X
- Making sandwiches for Guest House Residence
- Creating special cards for community places
- Spiffing up our church yard and building

## **Area church disaster relief project:**

Area UCC churches are joining forces to create “clean up kits” for disaster relief victims. Items will be collected and placed in five gallon buckets. Bethlehem is asked to create at least one kit by Oct. 3. Sign up to bring items. We need new:

- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Handi Wipes or Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water
- (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (latex-free, non-surgical)
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Sunday, Sept. 19 – “Faith in the Fall” music festival – Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove – 10am-2pm – see flyer

Wednesday, Oct 6 – Drive thru Chili Supper at Bethel UCC- 11am-6:30pm - \$8.00

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 9/12:** 8:00a Sunday School; 9:30a Worship; *Happy Birthday Traci Rabe and Molly Rabe*

**Monday 9/13:**

**Tuesday 9/14:** 6:30pm Consistory; *Happy Birthday Ben Jeanty!*

**Wednesday 9/15:** 6pm Confirmation Class – Parent mtg at 7:00pm; *Happy Anniversary Louie Kathy Bowe!*

**Thursday 9/16:**

**Friday 9/17:** *Happy Birthday Courtney Riesterer!*

**Saturday 9/18:**

**Sunday 9/19:** 8:00a Sunday School; 9:30a Worship; Mission and Service Projects;

**Pantry item: Toilet paper or Paper Toweling**