



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, September 25, 2022

Worship led by: Rev. Roy Rogers

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Moment "United Church Men and Women" Lori Roelse

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We have been blessed by the Eternal God, who has been faithful to us.

People: As thankful stewards, we will remain faithful to God.

Leader: The mystery that has been hidden through the ages...is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

People: As redeemed stewards, we will remain faithful to Christ.

Leader: God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and Guide, our unfailing source of strength.

People: As Spirit-filled stewards, we will remain

***OPENING PRAYER**

Eternal God, we bow before you today in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Help us to remember your generosity, and to thank you for every good gift and every perfect gift that we enjoy and for your faithfulness in times of adversity. Help us to remember your

sustaining presence at every moment of discouragement. Just as you are always faithful to us, help us to remember our responsibility to be faithful to you. As we make decisions about how to use the many gifts we have received from you, guide us by your Holy Spirit to be good stewards so that we will make the best use of those gifts for the sake of your kingdom. In strong and holy name of Jesus, our Example, we pray. Amen

***OPENING HYMN: #353**

“Be Thou My Vision”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, We can hardly imagine not longing to be wealthy or wealthier. We fear we won't have enough or that we aren't enough. We don't trust you to provide what we need. God, you have been faithful. Strengthen our trust in your good gifts to us. You know our needs. You know what it takes for the tasks you have called us to. Help us be satisfied when our needs are met and be joyful when we can share with others. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***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

Matthew 6:19-21

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 16: 1-15

Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now

that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him. So he said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.

1 Timothy 6: 6-12

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

SERMON

“What’s in your Heart?”

*HYMN #314

“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

CALL TO THE OFFERING - (Offerings and Jingle Change are collected before and after worship. The basket is located near the double doors to the sanctuary. September JINGLE CHANGE supports the CROP WALK project)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #282

“Give Thanks”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER... LORD’S PRAYER

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.

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,
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 and may your Holy Spirit
help us prayer Jesus taught...

**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 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.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven Volland (920)286-0162 or svolland44@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

Save the date!!

- **Oct. 2 - Mission and Service Sunday- short service projects following worship**
 - **Highway Cleanup**
 - **Sandwich Making for Guest House**
 - **Bingo at Field of Dreams Assisted Living**
 - **Lunch will be provided. (Bethlehem Chili!!)**
- **Oct. 9 - CROP Walk - supports food security both globally and locally. 12:00 reg. 12:30 walk begins at Memorial Park in Howards Grove. (2 or 4 Mile options)**
- **Oct. 16 - Outdoor worship followed by picnic. Fun games and Lunch! More details coming soon!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The blue and yellow candle on the altar is lit in unity with the people of the Ukraine.
- Field of Dreams is accepting visitors again! Merlin and Doris Mae would love to see you!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bethel UCC on County Line Road is having their annual Drive-Thru Chili Supper on Wednesday, October 5th from 11:00 am until 6:30 pm or until chili is gone. - Tickets are \$9.00 each.

Bethlehem's Spiritual Leadership Team:

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



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Families who have lost loved ones:

Steve Rumpff
DuWayne Nimmer
Jane Markelz

Those struggling with health issues:

McKenna Rugowski	Finn (a young boy with cancer)
Doreen Schmidt	Helen Henning
Tom Lefeber	Hattie Lucille
Glen Schad	Jessica Horneck
Signe Burkhart	Dana (friend of Melissa K)
Kenzie Koppenhaver	Darlene Horneck

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Nimmer

Other Concerns:

People of the Ukraine and others affected by war and violence.
People affected by wildfires and natural disasters.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 9/25: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; ~Happy Birthday Robert Schnell!

Monday 9/26:

Tuesday 9/27:

Wednesday 9/28: 7pm Confirmation event at Lakeland University

Thursday 9/29:

Friday 9/30: ~Happy Birthday Chad Jeanty! Happy Anniversary Dan & Amy Wempner!!

Saturday 10/1: ~Happy Anniversary Andrew & Natasha Verhulst!

Sunday 10/2: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; Mission and Service Sunday
Followed by Chili Lunch

October Pantry Items: Cleaning Supplies