



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday, September 4, 2022

Worship led by: Randy Koppenhaver

Organist: Kathy Bowe

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

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Joy comes to those who follow the ways of the Lord.

We will follow the Lord with joyful hearts!

Those who follow the Lord are like trees planted by the river, bearing fruit each season.

May our lives be fruitful and blessed by God!

Worship the Lord who leads us to joy and abundance.

Let us worship God now and for all our days.

***OPENING PRAYER**

One: You have blessed us with the sunlit glory of summer days.

All: And we praise you, Creator God.

One: You have blessed us with a Christian community of friends.

All: And we rejoice in our mutual support, O God.

One: You have blessed us with questioning, enthusiastic young persons, and with older persons full of good sense.

Men and Boys: Together they are our strength, O God.

One: You have blessed us with a church which stands with the powerless.

**Women and Girls: And we know it reflects your mercy and compassion,
O Loving God.**

One: You have blessed us with the Way of Jesus.

**All: And we will strive to make the Way of Jesus shine through all our
venturing together, and through the path which we tread alone, eternal
and ever present God. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN: #22 ALL "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**God of justice and mercy,
we offer you our love and loyalty in worship
yet we admit we do not live out that love and loyalty.
We don't always act on our good intentions,
we fail to keep our promises, we hurt each other,
and then refuse to seek or offer forgiveness.
People must look at us and wonder if this is what means to follow Jesus.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

From now on, St Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
Thanks be to God that we can make a new start this very day! Amen.

*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

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
- ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**
- ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ **I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.**

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so

that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

SERMON

*HYMN #420

“Change my Heart, O God”

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

“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

O God, we offer these gifts to you. Bless them and use them to heal and reshape the world you love with the Good News we celebrate in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us pray.

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.

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

Petitions end with "God, in your mercy... **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.

*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.***

BENEDICTION

One: We respond to God as we leave the church. Having heard your Word,
O God, encourage us to reflect and act.

All: Having seen the signs, give us confidence to follow.

One: Having sensed the truth, help us to be faithful.

All: Having encountered Jesus, lead us to discipleship.

POSTLUDE

2022 Bethlehem UCC Consistory Members

Elder/President - Steven 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



Those in our thoughts and prayers:

Joys:

Birth of Maxwell Voland- Born Aug. 12 to Kevin and Mandy Voland
The marriage of Steven and Jackie Voland on July 30.

Families who have lost loved ones:

Karl (nephew of Will and Lora)
DuWayne Ninmer
Jane Markelz
Everett Henning

Those struggling with health issues:

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

Those unable to worship with us:

Merlin and Doris Mae Ninmer

Other Concerns:

People of the Ukraine and others affected by war and violence.
People affected by recent gun violence in our nation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Bethlehem UCC Ladies are hosting their annual guest night on Tuesday, September 20th. Our guest speaker is Nancy Zimmerman who will be speaking about the history of Kiel. We will begin the evening with a complimentary lunch at 6:00 pm and Nancy's presentation to follow. Lunch will consist of broasted chicken, rolls, salads and dessert. Men and women of the congregation and the community are invited to join us. Please invite your family and friends!! There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call/text Polly Jeanty at 920-286-2605 by Sunday, Sept 18th. Hope to see you there!

**Bethlehem's Spiritual
Leadership:**

Reverend Roy Rogers

Phone: 920.428.0183 or email:

rogers671@gmail.com

**Randy Koppenhaver,
Licensed Lay Minister**

Phone: 920.286.2531 or
email:

randy.kopp15@gmail.com

- We would like to thank everyone in the Bethlehem congregation who kept Lora's nephew Karl in their prayers over the past year. God bless you all.

Lora and Will Mathes

- 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:

- Sunday, Sept. 18 - Our Shepherds UCC - Howards Grove – Faith in the Fall worship/music festival featuring Siegmann Family Band at 10:00. Music all day. Pulled pork and turkey lunch with extras. Bring your lawn chair.
- 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.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Today Sunday 9/4: 9:30am Worship w/ Communion;

Monday 9/5: *HAPPY LABOR DAY!*

Tuesday 9/6:

Wednesday 9/7:

Thursday 9/8:

Friday 9/9: *~Happy Birthday Lori Schmitt!!*

Saturday 9/10:

Sunday 9/11: 8am Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; *~Happy Birthday Addison Salm and Kelly Ryba!*

September Pantry Items: Package of Toilet Paper or Paper Toweling