

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



God's Work – Our Hands

*February 25, 2018
Second Sunday in Lent*



First time guests, welcome!

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us this morning. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex and identify yourself to one of our ushers or Welcome Team members to receive a delicious gift.

We invite everyone to write their prayer requests on the Action Pads in the pews. They will be gathered and read aloud during our Prayers of the Church. Prayer requests may be edited for privacy concerns.

All are invited to stand for sections marked with a cross (✝); however, some may choose to remain seated.

*Congregational responses are in **bold**.*

CHURCH LIFE

Prayers of healing go out to **Pastor John** as he continues to recover from back surgery.

Jay Katz is home from the hospital.

Fritz Rentschler is now in hospice care.
Please keep Fritz in your prayers.

We extend sympathy to **Nancy Pieske**, whose mother, Shirley Hoskin, passed away on February 16. Her memorial service was held at Bethlehem on Thursday.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

8:30 = 15

10:00 = 71

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

We can look behind.

We can search ahead.

God will meet us in between.

God promises to always be right there.

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *(please say in the way most familiar to you)*

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 [sins/trespasses],
as we forgive our debtors [those who sin/trespass against us].**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Children of God, the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Please share Christ's peace with one another.

✠ SONG OF PRAISE #35

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.**

10:00 LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

Following the message, children may go to Sunday school.

10:00 ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

SCRIPTURE READINGS (New Revised Standard Version)

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and

you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Romans 4:13-25 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Faith in Action”

Lily Tinker Fortel

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✝ 10:00 HYMN #575

Come and Find the Quiet Center

The Member Care Team will collect written prayer requests at this time.

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

Without jumping so quickly to “no,”
Let us *live* into God’s love and promise.
Let us go in between with God to offer our gifts.
Let us give God our thanks in our tithes and offerings.

10:00 OFFERTORY

Beach Spring
Handbell Choir

B.F. White
arr. Kevin McChesney

✠ 10:00 DOXOLOGY #46

**Praise God the source of life and breath;
Praise Christ, now born to conquer death;
Praise Holy Spirit’s mystery:
One God, pure grace, who sets us free. Amen.**

✠ 10:00 UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of faith in action,
bless these gifts with your love so that we might
share them with an infinite sense of possibility
with all who need your Love. Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #477

Pass It On

✠ BENEDICTION (*based on Mark 8:31-38; Romans 4:13-25*)

One: Pass it on—

All: Yes! We want to be followers of Christ.

One: Pass it on—

All: Yes! We see the beauty of the vision.

One: Pass it on—

**All: Like Abraham, Sarah, Mary, Jesus, and so many before us,
we have the faith to hope against hope!**

One: Turn and look! Possibilities are all around us.

**All: We will open ourselves to God.
We will be faith in action.**

✠ POSTLUDE

Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee

J.S. Bach

***Please join us for the Coffee Connection in the Schmale Lounge after the 8:30 service
and in the Fellowship Hall following 10 o’clock worship.***



a just world for all

WORSHIP RESOURCE: Revealed to Us: Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, written by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a budding spiritual director and wandering interim minister. She writes liturgies and shares her thoughts on cookingwithelsa.org. Copyright 2018 Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.

HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Guest Preacher: Lily Tinker Fortel

Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development: Lily Tinker Fortel

Interim Director of Music: Thomas Burton

Organist: Gail Jennings

Handbell Choir Director: Jim Rowan

10:00 Bell Ringer Matt Perros

Liturgist Steve Schwartz

Coffee Hour Servers

8:30 Harriette Ehnis, Mike Ehnis

10:00 Hilda Ward, Gert Eisele, Marj Alber

Dishwasher Katie Rowan

Office Volunteer Mary Lou Wenk

10:00 Sound Technician Jamie Dylenski

10:00 Educational Building Greeter Barb Marshall

Building Opener/Closer Mike Ehnis/Steve Darr

8:30 Ushers Harriette Ehnis, Mike Ehnis

10:00 Ushers Steve Darr, Dennis Huibregtse, Pat Huibregtse,
Matt Perros, Chuck Hookham

Our Mission

To worship God, to learn and live the Word of God,
to engage in Christian fellowship and service, to invite
others to join us on our faith journey in the ministry of Jesus Christ.