

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*July 22, 2018
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*



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**.*

RADIO SPONSORSHIP

The Radio Broadcast today is given by Pat Hentz
in memory of her husband, **Gary Hentz**.

FLOWERS

The flowers this morning are from Pat Hentz in memory of
her sisters, **Mary Ellen Craft** and **Nancy Hoxie**.

CHURCH LIFE

Happy birthday to **Gladys Schlenker**,
who will be 96 on July 26.

As of Wednesday, no member of Bethlehem
is known to be in the hospital.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

8:30 = 26 10:00 = 69

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.

Order of Worship
July 22, 2018
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Chapel	8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE Christians, We Have Met To Worship Arr. Dale Wood

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✠ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to celebrate God's blessings to us.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to open ourselves to God's guidance and love.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see more clearly God's presence in our lives.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to see God in this community of seekers.

All: Surely God is in this place!

One: We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.

All: Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!

✠ HYMN OF GATHERING #725 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, you know us already.

Help us to know you better.

Let us see you all around us.

Fill our worship with your Spirit

so that we may learn to recognize

your presence in all places. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our failures, shortcomings, and sins are like strong weeds in our lives.
We confess them to God, so that we may clear away anything
that would choke out our nourishing connection with God. Let us pray.

(SILENCE)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

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/trespases],
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: Let us 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 Nursery, preschool, and K-7 children will come up front for LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN or leave for their classes at this time.

10:00 ANTHEM

Elegy for Mippy II
Thomas Burton, trombone

Leonard Bernstein

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

¹O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ²You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. ³You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. ⁵You go before me and follow me. You place your

hand of blessing on my head. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! ⁷I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! ⁸If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. ⁹If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. ¹¹I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—¹² but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” ²⁹Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ ³¹The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” ³²The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. ³³And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.” ³⁴Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“How Do I Love Myself?”

Pastor John

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✠ 10:00 HYMN #526

The Gift of Love

The Member Care Team will collect written prayer requests during this hymn.

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

What we have received comes from seed sown in us by Jesus Christ.
Having received the blessings of the harvest begun in us,
let us return to God fruits of the blessings we have received.

10:00 OFFERTORY

Sang till Lotta

Jan Sandstrom

Thomas Burton, trombone; Sarah Albright, piano

✠ 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

**Loving God, we offer back to you what we have been given:
our treasure, our time, and our lives. Bless our gifts and
multiply them for your purposes. Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #464 God of Grace and God of Glory

✠ RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: God's spirit is always with you.

All: Wherever we go, God is there!

One: If you ascend to heaven,

All: God is there.

One: If you settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

All: God is there.

One: In all places, God holds you fast. May you know deeply
the presence of God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Go with God.

✠ POSTLUDE

Postlude

Alexandre Guilman

***Now through Labor Day, the summer Coffee Connection
is between services in the Schmale Lounge. Please join us!***



a just world for all

Worship Resources:

Surely God Is in This Place: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood of Cleveland, Ohio, is a certified leader of InterPlay, a system of forms in movement, storytelling and vocalizing that brings body and soul together and brings communities together. She teaches suicide first aid via Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. Copyright 2017 Local Church Ministries, 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

Pastor: Rev. John L. Kennedy

Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development:

Lily Tinker Fortel

Director of Music: Thomas Burton

Guest Organist: Sarah Albright

10:00 Bell Ringer Matt Perros

Liturgist Marilyn Pearson

Coffee Hour Servers

Mike Ehnis, Harriette Ehnis

Office Volunteer Mary Lou Wenk

10:00 Sound Technician Gary Rogers

10:00 Educational Building Greeter

Barb Marshall

Building Opener/Closer

Mike Ehnis/Tom Ziesemer

Ushers

8:30 Mike Ehnis, Harriette Ehnis

10:00 Pat Huibregtse, Dennis Huibregtse,
Abby Korzuck, Steve Darr, Chuck Hookham