

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*September 16, 2018
Seventeenth 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

Today's Radio Broadcast is in memory of **Gary Hentz** from his wife, Pat.

FLOWERS

The flowers this morning are in honor of **Pat Hentz's** 87th birthday.

CHURCH LIFE

Bev Hanselman is still in rehab at Glacier Hills.

Tamsen Marshall is at Glacier Hills.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

8:30 = 25 10:00 = 100

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
September 16, 2018
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Suite in G

Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wisdom cries out in the street.

All: What does Wisdom say?

One: She calls for us to listen and to love one another.

All: We come today to listen and to love.

One: Wisdom is here with us.

All: We are ready to worship God.

✠ HYMN OF GATHERING #258 Holy Wisdom

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy Wisdom of God, you call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, Spirit create, challenge, comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways that lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, your Wisdom calls to us but we do not hear. We confess that we ignore your calls and commandments to welcome the stranger. We exclude, ignore, and demean each other by drawing lines and building borders. Forgive our selfishness and lack of imagination. Holy Wisdom, stir our hearts and inspire us to build your peace in our communities. Amen.

(let us observe a few moments of silence to breathe and reflect)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Wisdom cries out in the street and she never stops. As long as there is injustice, Wisdom will call us to work and bring justice to her people. In sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and companion. In Christ we are forgiven all our failings and given strength to start again. Christ is a source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom. **Amen.**

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.**

10:00 LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

*Following the message, nursery and preschool children and
K-7 youth can leave for Sunday school.*

✠ 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.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Proverbs 1:20-33

²⁰ Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. ²¹ She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate: ²² “How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge? ²³ Come and listen to my counsel. I’ll share my heart with you and make you wise. ²⁴ “I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. ²⁵ You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. ²⁶ So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you— ²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you. ²⁸ “When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me. ²⁹ For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord. ³⁰ They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. ³¹ Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. ³² For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency. ³³ But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.”

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. ¹⁹ As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.” ²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. ²² It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. ²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. ²⁴ But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. ²⁶ Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. ²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ²⁸ God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers

important. ²⁹ As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. ³¹ Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord.”

Mark 8:27-31

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ²⁸ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.” ²⁹ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Wisdom Cries Out!”

Pastor John

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✠ 10:00 SPECIAL MUSIC

Pilgrim’s Hymn

Stephen Paulus

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

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

The psalmist declares, “The heavens are telling the glory of God. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.” Let us share our gifts so that we can also partake in telling others of God’s glory!

10:00 OFFERTORY

Mysterious Barricades

François Couperin

✠ 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

Gracious God and source of all good gifts, thank you for the resources in our lives, our community and our nation. Thank you for all that we share today to make our lives, our community, and our nation more welcoming. Bless us in our continued ministries that seek your peace and justice. Amen.

✝ HYMN OF PARTING #594 Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind

✝ BENEDICTION

Let us ponder the challenge of Jesus this week:

Who do we say Christ is in our lives, our community, our world?

Let Holy Wisdom shine through all our pondering and lead us to recognize and serve our Risen Savior in all our encounters. **Amen.**

✝ 10:00 SUNG BENEDICTION May the Peace of God Be Your Peace Neil McLaren

✝ POSTLUDE Sinfonia from "Solomon" George F. Handel



Please join us for our Sunday morning Coffee Connection:

- *in the Schmale Lounge after the 8:30 service*
- *in the Willimann Fellowship Hall after the 10:00 service*

A big THANK YOU to all who donated backpacks for our Blessing of the Backpacks last Sunday.

Our goal was 50 and we ended up with 63.

Well done Bethlehem!

The backpacks will be distributed to Peace Neighborhood Center and Ozone House



HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Rev. John L. Kennedy

Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development:

Lily Tinker Fortel

Director of Music: Thomas Burton

Organist: Gail Jennings

10:00 Bell Ringer Matt Perros

Liturgist Kurt Schmerberg

Coffee Hour Servers

8:30 Susan Irwin, John Irwin

10:00 Gert Eisele, Hilda Ward, Matt Perros

Office Volunteer Jacquie Katz

10:00 Sound Technician Edgar Vasquez

10:00 Educational Building Greeters Laura Seyfried, Pat O'Reilly

Building Opener/Closer

Jim Judson/Scott Lovelace

Ushers

8:30 Jim Judson, Mike Ehnis

10:00 Larry Katz, Hans Maier, Tom Naylor, Marty Seyfried,
Jay Katz, Mark Katz, Scott Buday, Kris Jaeger

Wisdom Calls: Service Prayers for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Minister and Team Leader for the Center for Analytics, Research and Data, LCM. 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.