

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*January 13, 2019
First Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ*



First time guests, welcome!

*We are so glad 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 and/or
praise reports on the cards in the pews. They will be collected during the
Hymn of Gathering and read aloud during our Prayers of the Church.*

These may be edited for privacy concerns.

A comfortable space for families is available under the balcony.

*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

The rose on the altar is in honor of the baptism today of
Salvatore Michael Baiocco, son of William and Eva Baiocco.

Longtime member **Janet Chin** passed away on December 22.

A celebration of her life will take place at Bethlehem
January 19 at 11 a.m. preceded by a visitation at 10 a.m.

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

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

8:30 = 26 10:00 = 90

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
January 13, 2019
First Sunday after Epiphany

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

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE “Allegretto,” Sonata No. 4 Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✝ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of
hatred and death.**

One: In baptism, we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity,
recalling

**All: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of
divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of
our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: Therefore, on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ,
remembers and celebrates.**

One: Let us worship God!

✝ HYMN OF GATHERING #356 We, Your People, God, Confessing

The Member Care Team will collect prayer requests and praise reports during this hymn.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that too often we live as though we are fearful, not faithful. When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion, we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side. You promised to walk through the rivers with us. Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

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

RESPONSIVE WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name,
you are mine." You are forgiven in Christ's name. This is the good news!

All: I belong to God.

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: Jesus said, "Peace I leave you, a peace the world cannot give."
Peace always be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ 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.**

8:30 SPECIAL MUSIC

Morgen!

Richard Strauss

Thomas Burton, trombone; Gail Jennings, piano

10:00 LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

Children through sixth grade are invited to leave for Sunday school at this time. First-floor rooms are open for infants–1st-graders. Older children meet in the basement-level classroom.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Child: **Salvatore Michael Baiocco**

Born: September 14, 2018

Parents: William and Eva Baiocco

Sponsors: Shuana Leighton and Ryan Baiocco

INVITATION AND WELCOME

One: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

All: “Let the little children come to me, do not stop or hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

One: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying hands upon them.

ADDRESS

One: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God’s new order. Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ’s death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

One: Do you desire to have Salvatore Michael baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

One: Will you encourage Salvatore to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with God's help.

One: Will you teach Salvatore that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with God's help.

One: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We promise, with God's help.

One: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Salvatore in the Christian faith, to help him be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents: We promise, with God's help.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

One: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Salvatore, who is about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

One: Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ, that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in this child, Salvatore, baptized this day that he may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. **Amen.**

ACT OF BAPTISM

One: What is the name of this child?

Parents: Salvatore Michael

One: Salvatore Michael, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

One: The Holy Spirit be upon you, Salvatore Michael, child of God, disciple of Jesus Christ, member of the church.

MEETING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

10:00 ANTHEM

Morgen!

Richard Strauss

Thomas Burton, trombone; Gail Jennings, piano

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43: 1-10a

¹ But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. ² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place. ⁴ Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you. ⁵ "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will gather you and your children from east and west. ⁶ I will say to the north and south, 'Bring my sons and daughters back to Israel from the distant corners of the earth. ⁷ Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.'" ⁸ Bring out the people who have eyes but are blind, who have ears but are deaf. ⁹ Gather the nations together! Assemble

the peoples of the world! Which of their idols has ever foretold such things? Which can predict what will happen tomorrow? Where are the witnesses of such predictions? Who can verify that they spoke the truth? ¹⁰ “But you are my witnesses, O Israel!” says the Lord. “You are my servant. You have been chosen to know me, believe in me, and understand that I alone am God.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

²¹ One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Renewing Baptismal Promises”

Pastor John

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

And do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering God’s mission in all the world?

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

If you choose, you may come forward to recall the promises of your baptism—made by you or on your behalf by your parents/guardians. If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day you would like to start the journey toward your formal commitment. Please come forward to the font, and as you touch your forehead with the water, say,

“I am God’s beloved!”

UNISON PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

**By your Spirit, Almighty God, grant us
love for others,
joy in serving you,
peace in disagreement,
patience in suffering,
kindness toward all people,
goodness in evil times,
faithfulness in temptation,
gentleness in the face of opposition,
self-control in all things.**

Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✝ 10:00 HYMN #75 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

When we give our tithes and offerings, we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ. I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

10:00 OFFERTORY The Clean Edge of Change Carrie Newcomer,
arr. Gary Walters

✝ 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

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God. Let them give you honor
and glory as we serve the needs of your people. And let the called and
redeemed of God say, Amen.**

✝ HYMN OF PARTING #477 Pass It On

✠ BENEDICTION

Remember this week whose you are. And remember, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

✠ POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Joy

J.S. Bach

***Please join us for our Sunday morning Coffee Connection
in the Schmale Lounge after both services.***



"I am God's Beloved!" Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr, pastor of Park Hill Congregational United Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado. The questions, affirmations, and recommitment of the Remembrance of Baptism have been adapted from material in Book of Worship © 1986 Office of Church Life and Leadership. Copyright 2018 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO 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.

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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 Cresson Slotten

Coffee Connection Servers

(Coffee Connections are in the Schmale Lounge until further notice.)

8:30 Susan Irwin, John Irwin

10:00 Linda Young, Jenny Foster

10:00 Sound Technician Jamie Dylenski

Office Volunteer Myrna Pancost

Building Opener/Closer

Kurt Schmerberg/John Irwin

Ushers

8:30 Mike Ehnis, Kurt Schmerberg

10:00 Bob Grant, Ken Tappe, Doug Cameron,

Jerry Sutfin, Tony Peters, Roy Muir