

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*February 17, 2019  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*



## ***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**.*

### **RADIO SPONSORSHIP**

Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Barbara Scherdt Hoppe  
and Karen Scherdt Moore in memory of their parents and  
grandparents, **Stanley & Betty Scherdt,**  
**Erwin & Lucille Scherdt,** and **Edward & Lenore Scherdt.**

### **FLOWERS**

The altar arrangement is in loving memory of **Larry Marshall**  
from his daughters and Donna Kearney.

### **CHURCH LIFE**

Birthday greetings to **Edward Briegel,** who turned 93 on February 13,  
and **Lorraine Larmee,** who was 95 on Valentine's Day.

**Rosemary Strieter,** a lifelong member of Bethlehem, passed away on February 11.

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

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

8:30 = 14    10:00 = 99



## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Jesus, Healer, Teacher, Leader, break into our busy lives today and draw us to yourself. Open our lives to receive all that you have to offer: a healing touch, an enlightening word, a call to do your work of justice in the world. Shake up our lives so that we may enter your reign of the Beatitudes, where the poor are fed, the excluded are welcomed, the sorrowing consoled, and the lost find a home among us. In your holy name we pray. **Amen!**

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful Lord, we pause to confess that sometimes we listen to ungodly advice. We know better; but for some reason, we listen anyway. Forgive us. The lure of a quick fix, easy money, or pleasure turns our heads away from you Lord. Forgive us. We knew it was wrong as soon as we did it, but pride kept us from backing out of our decision. Forgive us. Teach us the joy of being just. Show us how to delight in being holy. Remind us that new life in Christ means new thoughts, new ways, new decisions. Forgive us for failing to trust you in all things. Amen.**

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

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God you are our trust, a place of safety in hard times. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Thank you for forgiving us through Jesus Christ. We will listen for your voice in all things. We will listen for your direction through this life. 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/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: 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.

**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

*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.*

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus

arr. Moses Hogan

*Allison Prost, soprano, Gail Jennings, piano*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord proclaims: Cursed are those who trust in mere humans, who depend on human strength and turn their hearts from the Lord. <sup>6</sup> They will be like a desert shrub that doesn't know when relief comes. They will live in the parched places of the wilderness, in a barren land where no one survives. <sup>7</sup> Happy are those who trust in the Lord, who rely on the Lord. <sup>8</sup> They will be like trees planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water. They won't fear drought when it comes; their leaves will remain green. They won't be stressed in the time of drought or fail to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup> The most cunning heart— it's beyond help. Who can figure it out? <sup>10</sup> I, the Lord, probe the heart and discern hidden motives, to give everyone what they deserve, the consequences of their deeds.

**Luke 6:17-26**

<sup>17</sup> Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a large area of level ground. A great company of his disciples and a huge crowd of people from all around Judea and Jerusalem and the area around Tyre and Sidon joined him there. <sup>18</sup> They came to hear him and to be healed from their diseases, and those bothered by unclean spirits were healed. <sup>19</sup> The whole crowd wanted to touch him, because power was going out from him and he was healing everyone. <sup>20</sup> Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said: "Happy are you who are poor, because God's kingdom is yours. <sup>21</sup> Happy are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied. Happy are you who weep now, because you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and condemn your name as evil because of the Human One. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice when that happens! Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven. Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets. <sup>24</sup> But how terrible for you who are rich, because you have

already received your comfort. <sup>25</sup> How terrible for you who have plenty now, because you will be hungry. How terrible for you who laugh now, because you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> How terrible for you when all speak well of you. Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Blessed Are...”

Pastor John

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✠ 10:00 HYMN #425                      Let Us Break Bread Together

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

God of the least, the last, and the lost: Jesus reminded us as he preached the Sermon on the Mount how much you pour your love down on the ones who are the poor, the meek, the heartbroken, the despised. In Jesus’ words, we are convicted for ways we have clung so tightly to money and possessions, seeking the comforts, status, and control that they seem to provide. As we bring our gifts to your altar this morning, may your love soak into us in a way that it loosens our grip of the things of this world that do not last, so we may cling instead to your love and redeeming grace, which endures eternally. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

10:00 OFFERTORY

Dona Nobis Pacem

arr. Ellen Foncannon

*Marsha Rinke, organ; Gail Jennings, 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

**With these gifts, dear God, accept the thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

✝ HYMN OF PARTING # 393

One Bread, One Body

✝ BENEDICTION

Let us go forth coworking with God to create a reality of A Just World for All, where hunger is no more, sorrow is comforted, and justice is known far and wide. **Amen.**

✝ POSTLUDE

Prelude in B-flat

J.S. Bach

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



**Beatitude Reality: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany** was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, Justice and Local Church Ministries. Copyright 2019 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.

## **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** Brian Paton

**Coffee Connection Servers**

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

8:30 Mike Ehnis, Harriette Ehnis

10:00 Linda Young, Carole Katz

**10:00 Sound Technician** Kurt Schmerberg

**Office Volunteer** Jacquie Katz

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

**Building Opener/Closer**

Mike Ehnis/Scott Lovelace

**Ushers**

**8:30** Mike Ehnis, Harriette Ehnis

**10:00** Larry Katz, Hans Maier, Tom Naylor, Marty Seyfried,

Jay Katz, Mark Katz, Scott Buday, Kris Jaeger

## **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.