

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*

**LENT**   UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



**PRAY**

**FAST**

**GIVE**

*We remember that God gave the world  
Jesus, and Jesus gave us his life.*

[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

*March 17, 2019  
Second Sunday in Lent*



## ***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**.*



### **HOLY BAPTISM**

The rose on the altar this morning is in honor of  
the baptism of **Christopher Kirk Bavery**, son of  
Ryan Christopher Bavery and Ashley Campbell Johnson Bavery.



### **RADIO SPONSORSHIP**

Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Sue Canfield in loving memory of  
her brother-in-law **Ron Jaworowski**, and in memory of the March 17 birthdays of  
her niece **Laura Ann Jaworowski**, who would be 48 today,  
and her friend **Wilma Wahl**, who would be 102 today.

### **CHURCH LIFE**

**John Schneider**, longtime member of Bethlehem, passed away on March 9.  
Our sympathies to his wife, Jane, and the entire family.

Our sympathies to our Financial Administrator **Betty Clark**  
on the death of her father last week.

Happy Birthday to **Virginia Washington**, who will be 96 on March 19.

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

8:30 = 10    10:00 = 102

**Order of Worship**  
**March 17, 2019**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

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

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RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Celtic Meditations

Rosalie Bonighton,  
Andrew Fletcher

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✝ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is my light, my hope, my all in all: whom shall I fear?

**All: God is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?**

One: One thing I asked of God: let me live in the shelter of you, in the beauty of your realm, in the wonder of your house.

**All: We seek your face, God! Do not turn aside!**

One: Teach us your way, God, show us your path through all that life brings.

**All: We shall see the blessing of God: come, Holy Spirit!**

✝ HYMN OF GATHERING #618        How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1,2,5)

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

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God, we are too well aware that life brings us pains, doubts, uncertainties. We remember that Abram was filled with questioning, the early church surrounded by threats, Jesus himself confronted with fearful powers. In the midst of that awareness, we call upon you, our everlasting refuge. Remember your people, God. We long for a way through the frights of the world; we pray for your support. Come, Holy One; come, Spirit of Life. Come into this holy place and this holy hour, and fill us again with assurance of your grace. We ask it in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We hear the call to trust in God always,

**All: but honestly, some days our stresses and doubts are even more real to us than God, and trust is elusive.**

One: We remember how Abram dared to believe in God's promises,

**All: but belief like that is hard to come by. We are often inclined to think, "God helps those who help themselves," instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator.**

One: When the world seems filled with dangers, we can be quick to protect ourselves, and we forget the wisdom of scripture, which reminds us that we find traces of evil both outside and inside ourselves. With God's help, we confront our fears and struggles, and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull.

**All: Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings.**

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

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Though fear should beset us; though danger cause us to close up our doors; though troubles assail and lead us away from the ways of grace; only one thing is necessary: Just turn back to God's promise of grace. Remember that God is reaching out with loving arms, and let yourself be held. Only ask for forgiveness, and it is ours. Know that in this moment we have asked and in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God! 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

✠ 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

*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: **Christopher Kirk Bavery**

Born: September 8, 2018

Parents: Ryan Christopher Bavery and Ashley Campbell Johnson Bavery

Sponsors: Steven Downs and Joyita Chamness

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 **Christopher** baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Parents: We do.**

One: Will you encourage **Christopher** 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 **Christopher** 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 **Christopher** 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 **Christopher**, 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, **Christopher**, 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: Christopher**

One: **Christopher**, 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, **Christopher**, child of God, disciple of Jesus Christ, member of the church.

## MEETING YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? <sup>2</sup>When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup>Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident. <sup>4</sup>The one thing I ask of the LORD—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD’s perfections and meditating in his Temple. <sup>5</sup>For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. <sup>6</sup>Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the LORD with music. <sup>7</sup>Hear me as I pray, O LORD. Be merciful and answer me! <sup>8</sup>My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “LORD, I am coming.” <sup>9</sup>Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don’t leave me now; don’t abandon me, O God of my salvation! <sup>10</sup>Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close. <sup>11</sup>Teach me how to live, O LORD. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me. <sup>12</sup>Do not let me fall into their hands. For they accuse me of things I’ve never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence. <sup>13</sup>Yet I am confident I will see the LORD’s goodness while I am here in the land of the living. <sup>14</sup>Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

**Luke 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>At that time some Pharisees said to him, “Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!” <sup>32</sup>Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. <sup>33</sup>Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must proceed on my way. For it wouldn’t do for a prophet of God to be killed except in Jerusalem! <sup>34</sup>“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. <sup>35</sup>And now, look, your house is abandoned. And you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## 8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✠ 10:00 HYMN #644

Steal Away to Jesus

## PASTORAL PRAYER &amp; PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## 10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

Abram trusted, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. The Psalmist waited for God while troubles raged. Jesus and Paul saw the enemies of faith around them. But by God's grace, our world has more wonder than trouble. By God's grace, we are gifted with hope and resilience. By God's grace, love and life have triumphed and we are invited into the joyful communion of God and all God's people. Let our tithes and offerings be a holy gesture of thanksgiving, a song of joy and blessing. Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise and offer them to God's purposes.

10:00 OFFERTORY

Variation on the Bach Chorale: "O Sacred Head"

Fred Hersch

✠ 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 all goodness, we thank you for your blessings: more numerous than the stars; more bountiful than the greatest of harvests; more steady than the beat of our hearts. Here we dedicate our gifts and rededicate ourselves to your vision of hope and wholeness. May all that we do and all that we give be pleasing to you and a testimony to your loving purposes. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #619

My Life Flows On

✠ BENEDICTION

One: God is our light, our hope, our all in all:

**All: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

One: Christ is our home, our life, our joy:

**All: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

One: Our worship concludes; our service continues.

**All: Blessed be God, now and forever!**

SUNG BENEDICTION

Bathe Me in Your Light

Ron Klusmeier

✠ POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor (The Cathedral)

J.S. Bach

***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***

***Please join us today for the St. Patrick's Day Cookie Sale. The cookie sale is a fundraiser for our 2019 Lenten Mission Project "Michigan Builds," raising money for the Michigan Helps Guatemala Stove Project and Habitat for Humanity of Genesee County.***



### **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.

## **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** Sue Wortman

**Coffee Connection Servers**

8:30 Susan Irwin, John Irwin

10:00 Linda Young, Marj Alber

**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/Tom Zieseemer

**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

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