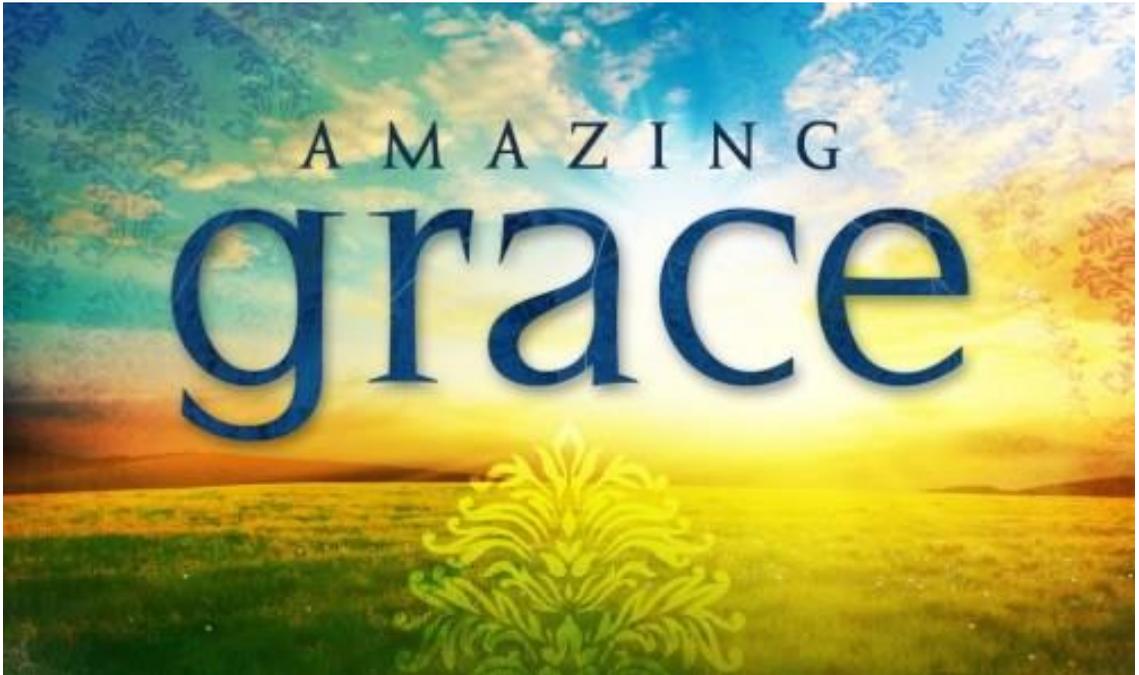


*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*September 15, 2019
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*



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**.*

FLOWERS

The flowers this morning are for
Jacque Katz, with love from **Jay**
“In honor of our 59th wedding anniversary on September 10”

CHURCH LIFE

Gladys Schlenker has moved to
Brookdale Assisted Living in Ann Arbor.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

8:30 = 15 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 15, 2019
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Clair de Lune

Claude Debussy

WELCOME AND SHARING PARISH LIFE

✝ RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Come, all you who are seeking God. Come! Enter into this place of protection and comfort and discover that God is seeking us!

All: We rejoice to have God find us here, as we come seeking God!

One: Come! Come in and experience God's joy when we come together.

All: Here in this sanctuary, we worship and meet God!

✝ HYMN OF GATHERING #66 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Thank you, O Holy One, for this opportunity to meet you in this place of worship. We come to this new day after a long week, carrying all kinds of feelings, emotions, and expectations. But here, in your presence, let your Holy Spirit move us to a place of rejoicing in which new hopes abound. We will celebrate the gift of your caring Spirit. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself.

All: But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you?

One: How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice?

All: How often have we tried to dominate others, even as you stand with them?

One: How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation by our treatment of the heavens, the earth, and its waters?

All: Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way.

One: Know, All Loving God, that we want to be among those whom you seek.

All: Shower your mercy upon us. Find us, and lead us safely home to faithfulness.

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around. Let us now receive God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace! **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.

✠ 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.**

10:00 LEARNING WITH OUR CHILDREN

Following this time, children through seventh grade are invited to leave for Sunday school on the first floor by the Welcome Center. Preschool is open for infants through 1st-graders.

ANTHEM

I Choose Love

Mark Miller

Text by Lindy Thompson

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³ even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ O how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶ But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

Luke 15:1-10

¹ All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. ² The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and

neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.' ⁷ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives. ⁸ Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"A Prime Example"

Pastor John

8:30 COLLECTION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✠ 10:00 HYMN #546

Amazing Grace!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

10:00 INVITATION TO GIVE

10:00 OFFERTORY

Aria

Paul Manz

✠ 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

O God, bless our gifts given in love for you and for our neighbors in need. In Jesus name, amen.

✠ HYMN OF PARTING #340

Softly and Tenderly

✠ BENEDICTION

Go forth from this place rejoicing, knowing that your relationship with God is secure. You are loved, sought after, and cared for in the name of God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

✠ POSTLUDE

Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 29

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 o'clock service***

From Despair to Rejoicing: Service Prayers for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost was written by Henrietta Stith Andrews, a retired UCC Pastor who served as Associate Conference Minister in Michigan. Rev. Andrews is a certified Spiritual Director, currently residing in Powder Springs, GA. Copyright 2019 Justice Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO 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: David Hahn

Organist: Gail Jennings

10:00 Bell Ringer Matt Perros

Liturgist Brian Paton

Coffee Connection Servers

8:30 Harriette Ehnis, Mike Ehnis

10:00 Debbie Karr, Ron Karr

10:00 Sound Technician Edgar Vasquez

Office Volunteer Jacquie Katz

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

Building Opener/Closer

Norm Wetzel/Jennifer Vasquez, Edgar Vasquez

Ushers

8:30 Norm Wetzel, Sally Wetzel

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