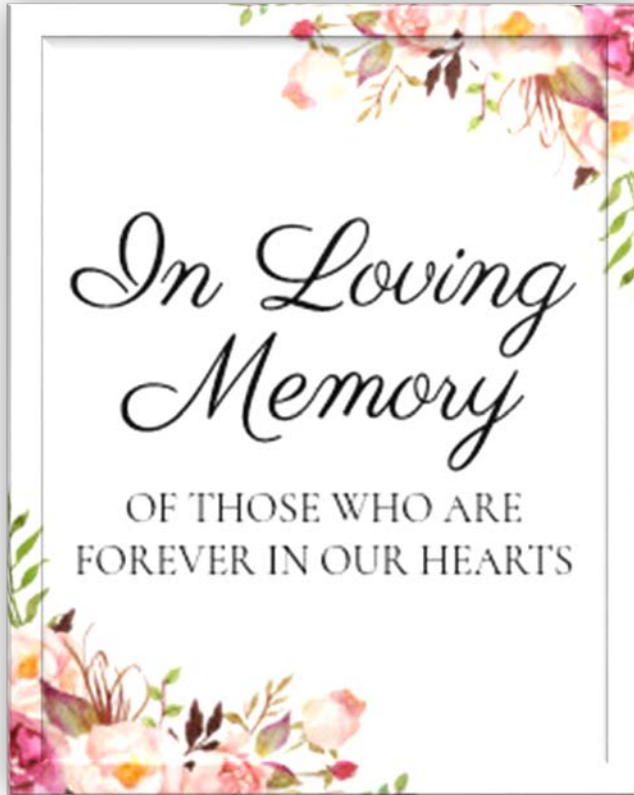


*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



November 1, 2020

*Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday - Totenfest Memorial Sunday*



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.



Happy Birthday to Bethlehem member,
John Fischer, who turns 93 on November 2.



CHURCH LIFE

Bethlehem member, **Greg Weglowski**, is in the hospital.
Please keep him in your prayers.

RADIO SPONSORSHIP

Today's Radio Broadcast is in memory of **Carole Katz**,
sponsored by the Jay and Larry Katz Families.

BUCC Worship Statistics during COVID Era

10/25/2020: Facebook Views – 86 complete views, YouTube Views - 24

PRELUDE

Air from Suite in D
Gail Jennings, organ

J. S. Bach

WELCOME & SHARING PARISH LIFE

Pastor John

MEMBER CARE MOMENT

John Samford

Happy birthday to the following Bethlehem members who are celebrating a birthday this week:

Owen A	Paulette G	Larisa J	Abigail K	Gary P
Gary B	Thomas H	Sally J	Paul M	Nancy P
Alice D	Chuck H	Gail J	Margaret	James R
Allison F	Lauren H	Debbie K	M	Jennifer V
John F	Katie J	Matthew K	Joseph N	Kathryn W

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Schwartz

ONE: Where are we going?

ALL: We are not sure. We have lost our way.

ONE: When will we get there?

ALL: We have been journeying forever.

ONE: Are we going in circles?

ALL: Sometimes it seems that way.

ONE: God says there is a place for us.

ALL: We wish we knew the way.

ONE: You just have to trust.

ALL: We will trust in the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE #637

For All the Saints Hymn

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;
their strength and solace in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We live and struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia, alleluia!

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Steve Schwartz

Lord of mercy and hope,
help us to cling to you in all our trials and tribulations.
Hold us gently and bring us to a place of new beginnings
where we will find healing and strength to serve you in the times ahead.
We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steve Schwartz

Lead us home, O God,
when we wander lost in wildernesses
of our own making.
Like errant children,
we stray from the safety
of our heavenly parent.
We hear your voice calling,
but go our own way.
We remember your teachings,
but instead follow the foolish desires
and whims of our hearts.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us home,
where we will follow your paths
and do the work you have for us. **Amen.**

WORD OF FORGIVENESS

Steve Schwartz

Rise up! God has heard your cries. You are healed and restored. Nothing can hold you back from serving God who walks with you. This is the great good news!

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Steve Schwartz

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 [trespasses/sins],
as we forgive our debtors [those who trespass/sin 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 THE PEACE

Steve Schwartz

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.

Though we gather virtually this morning, we still have the opportunity to pass the peace to those we are with, and to fellow worshipers in the comments below.

TOTENFEST: A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

Pastor John & Pastor Lily

ONE: Everlasting God, this day revives in us memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. What happiness we shared when they walked among us. What joy when, loving and being loved, we lived our lives together.

ALL: Their memory is a blessing forever.

ONE: Months or years may have passed, and still we feel near to them. Our hearts yearn for them.

Although the bitter grief has softened,
a duller pain abides;
for the place where once they stood is empty now.

The links of life are broken,
but the links of love and longing cannot break.

ALL: Their souls are bound up in ours forever.

ONE: We see them now with the eye of memory,
their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger.

So does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight.
We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

ALL: Their memory is a blessing forever.

ONE: And we remember, as well, the members who but yesterday
were part of our congregation and community.
To all who cared for us and labored for all people, we pay tribute.
May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our faith,
for now the task is ours.

ALL: Their souls are bound up in ours forever.

ONE: We give you thanks that they now live and reign with you.
As a great crowd of witnesses, they surround us with their blessings
and offer you joyful songs of praise and thanksgiving.

ALL: They are alive forevermore. Amen.

ROLL CALL OF NAMES

Pastor Lily

*As the names are read and a bell rings,
family members may light a candle in memory of their loved one.*

MUSIC

Largo, ma non tanto
from Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins
Katie and Tina Rowan, violins

JS Bach

SCRIPTURE READING:

Steve Schwartz

1st Corinthians 15:12-19, 35-38, 42-44, 50-57

But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are

still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” What a silly question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed.

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John

SPECIAL MUSIC

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

INVITATION TO GIVE

Steve Schwartz

In gratitude for all the blessings you continue to pour into our lives, we receive this morning's offering. **Amen.**

*Part of how we pray is in offering our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Bethlehem remains committed to directing our resources to those most in need in our community and world, and to maintaining our commitments to our staff. We are checking mail at the church regularly. Please mail in your offering, or consider making an online donation using the online giving page at:
www.bethlehem-ucc.org.*

OUTREACH MOMENT

Pastor Lily

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION-

Steve Schwartz

Lord, you have given to us so much. Help these gifts be used for ministries of hope and healing throughout your world. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor John

INVITATION

We will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please have some form of bread (rice, crackers, chips, bread) and something to drink (orange juice, grape juice, wine or water.)

COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: God be with you.

ALL And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to God most high.

ALL: It is right to give thanks and praise.

ONE: We give thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God,
always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ,
the only one begotten by you before all time,
by whom you made the world and all things.
We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature.

We praise you for forming us in your image
and for calling us to be your people.
Although we rebelled against your love,
your love remained steadfast, and you did not abandon us in our sin
but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of
salvation.

Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our only Savior,
who is the way, the truth, and the life.
In the fullness of time, you came to us and received our nature in the
person of Jesus, who, in obedience to you, by suffering on the cross
and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and
death.

We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to
pray for us. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, who leads us into truth,
defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us
in one holy church. Therefore, with the entire company of saints in
heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, O God, most holy.

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

ONE: For on the night of the betrayal, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup,
and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said:

“Drink from this, all of you:
This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is poured out for you and many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

ONE: And now let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Lily

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith,
recalling Christ’s suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ’s resurrection,
and awaiting Christ’s return in victory.

We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor.
We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all
people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine,
on our gifts, and on us.
Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of
peace and justice in all the world.
Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new. **Amen.**

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Pastor Lily & Pastor John

Through the broken bread we participate in the Body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

CALL TO THE SUPPER – ALL ARE WELCOME

Pastor Lily & Pastor John

Take Eat, for this is the Body of Christ broken for you, the Bread of Heaven.

Take Drink, this is the Blood of Christ shed for you, the Cup of Salvation.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor John

SENDING HYMN #638

In the Bulb There Is A Flower

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
in our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

BENEDICTION

Pastor John

ONE: We leave this place by many paths.

ALL: May God be our guide.

ONE: We go in confidence that God is with us, protecting us.

ALL: May God be our guide.

ONE: May we walk in faith on paths established by God.

ALL: May God be our guide.

ONE: May we work and live with God.

ALL: May God be our guide.

POSTLUDE Funeral March (from Song without Words) Felix Mendelssohn
Gail Jennings, organ

US elections happen on November 3, 2020. While churches can take no partisan stands, we can pray and work for a just common life as a natural extension of our faith. When Religion and Politics Meet, a video produced by the UCC Justice Witness Ministries, offers a clear outline of dos and don'ts of congregational political (not partisan) involvement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dorum2ZA0w&feature=youtu>

Totenfest Memorial Sunday November 1, 2020

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of Bethlehem Church Who Have Passed Away
November 3 2019–November 1, 2020



Arlene Schmidt
5/10/1927 - 11/2/2019



Charles Raab
7/30/1950 - 11/6/2019



Barbara Fisher
1/31/1932 - 11/9/2019



Carole Katz
5/28/1942 - 12/16/2019



Arthur French
2/24/1940 - 12/28/2019



Zofia Jaskiewicz
1/18/1924 - 2/17/2020



Richard Rinke
10/24/1951 - 4/17/2020



James Gilmore
8/17/1946 - 6/25/2020



Jerry Steeb
1/19/1949 - 9/26/2020

Gladys Schlenker
7/26/1922 - 10/11/2020





HELPING IN THE SERVICES TODAY

Pastor: Rev. John L. Kennedy

Minister of Spiritual Growth and Development: Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel

Director of Music: David Hahn

Organist: Gail Jennings

Violins: Katie Rowan, Tina Rowan

Liturgists: Steve Schwartz

Additional Speakers: Caroline Ashenfelter, John Samford