

Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ



November 17, 2024

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



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.

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We are so glad that you are joining your voice with ours in worship today!
Everyone, please sign our green friendship pads, found at the end of each pew.

If you like, a comfortable space for families is available under the balcony.

God put the wiggle in children, and we welcome them in worship!

Children are also welcome to participate in Sunday school, if they prefer.

All are invited to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with a cross (†);

Congregational responses are in **bold text**.

Prayer Requests

Fill out a prayer request card found in the pews. You may give it to one of the pastors before service or to an usher during the Hymn of Response.



CHURCH LIFE

No Bethlehem members were known to be in the hospital as of Wednesday

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY, 11/3/2024

Total: 77 (In Person: 50, YouTube: 24, Phone: 3)

10:00 am Worship is available via Phone Streaming & Livestream

(access from the Church website: <https://www.bethlehem-ucc.org>)

To join with Phone Stream, call 855-669-8965 prior to worship at 10:00 am.

You may sign up to be added to be called for Phone Stream by contacting the church office during regular business hours.

November 17, 2024 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

CENTERING MUSIC

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen -Spiritual/arr. Florence Price
Gail Jennings, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 16)

One: Keep the Lord before you always.

All: Because the Lord is with me, I shall not be moved.

One: Let your hearts be glad and your souls rejoice!

All: We rest secure in the Lord, who is ever-faithful!

† **HYMN OF GATHERING** **NCH # 414 v. 1-4** *Incarcate God, Immortal Love*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Loving God, we praise you and thank you for your faithfulness. Lord, there are times in our lives, when you seem so far away and fears and worries threaten to consume us. By your Spirit, guide us, comfort us, soothe our anxious hearts and minds, strengthen our faith, and grant us courage. When the worst seems inevitable, give us vision to see that with you all things are possible. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* - arr. Mark Hayes
Ernie Brandon, conductor; Gail Jennings, piano

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain: Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE **WHM #655** *Something Beautiful* (repeat once)
Something beautiful, something good; all my confusion, you understood;
All I had to offer you was brokenness and strife, but you made something beautiful of
my life.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

One: The gospel of the Lord for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Making Space

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION

NCH # 460

Be Not Dismayed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer and Sung Petition

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Please use these words or those most familiar to you.

Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

Andante Tranquillo

- Peter Warlock

Gail Jennings, organ

† Hymn of Thanksgiving

NCH # 785

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

† Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Benevolent God, we offer you these humble gifts – signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude and our prayer that, through them and us, all people may know the abundance of your love. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

NCH # 513 v. 1-3

O Source of All That Is

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*
Gail Jennings, organ

- Edward Elgar

OUR TEAM:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dawn Christenson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Ministers: All the people

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan

Ensemble: Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Guest Organist: Gail Jennings

Guest Conductor: Ernie Brandon

Liturgist: Jan Eadie

Sound Technicians: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technicians: Oliver Kripfgans, Michelle Loukotka, Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer: Edgar Vasquez

Coffee Hour Host: Member Care

Reach out to us:

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(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org



a just world for all