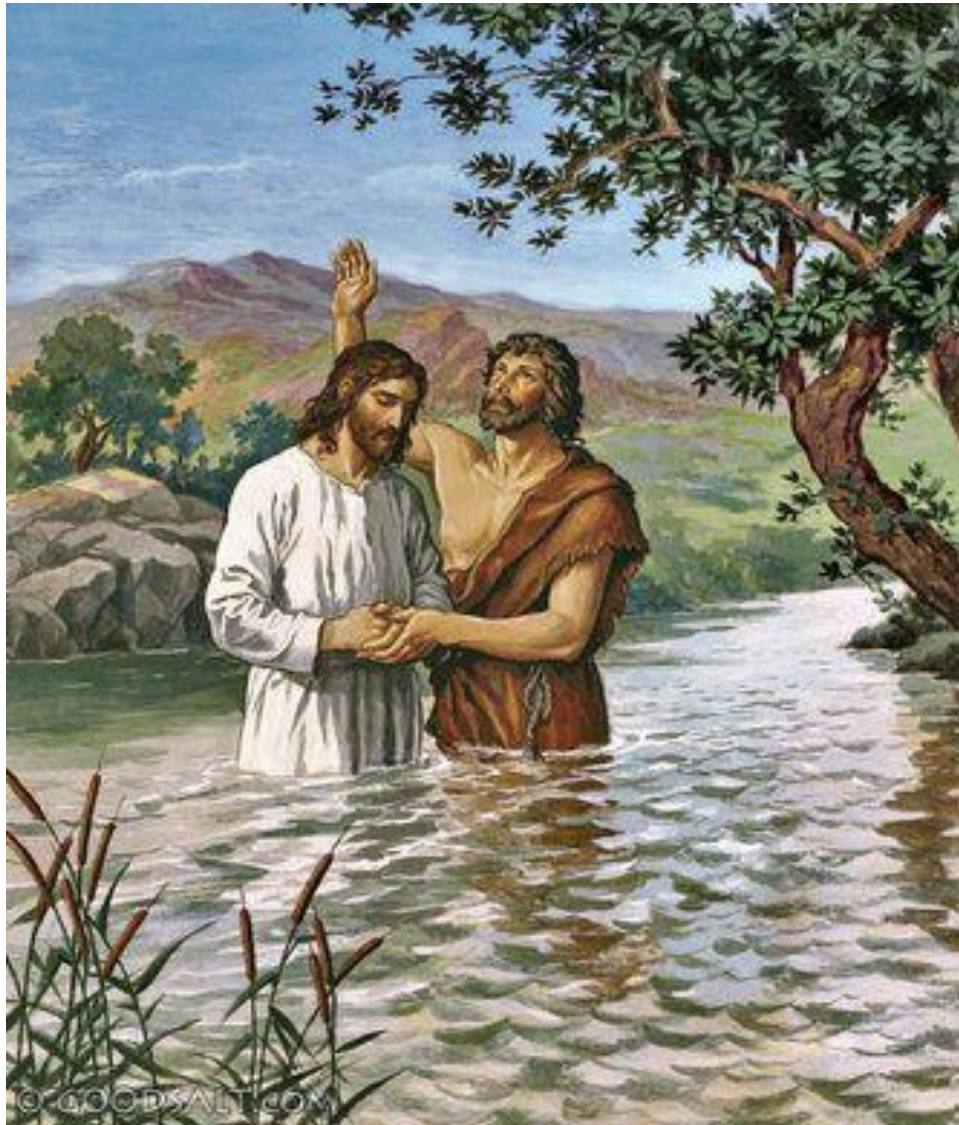


*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*January 12, 2025
Baptism of the Lord*



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 the service

or to an usher during the Hymn of Response.



Happy Birthday to Bethlehem member, **Norma Crouch** who turns 95 on January 18th.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY, 1/5/2025

Total: 74 (In Person: 52, YouTube: 20, Phone: 2)

Worship is available in the sanctuary, via Phone Streaming and Livestream to access the Livestream go to our website: <https://www.bethlehem-ucc.org>. To join the Phone Stream, call 855-669-8965 prior to the start of worship. You may sign up to be called by the Phone Stream by contacting the church office during regular business hours.

(You'll be called about 5 minutes before worship begins.)

January 12, 2025 – Baptism of the Lord

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

CENTERING MUSIC

Down to the River to Pray (with Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying)

- Ken Medema/arr. Mary McDonald

Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Isaiah 43)

One: Fear not, for God has redeemed you and called you by name!

All: The Lord is with us to guide us through the waters of life.

† HYMN OF GATHERING NCH # 170 *Your Ways Are Not Our Own*

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Almighty God, you have called us to be members of one body, united in Christ. Immerse us in the gentle, living waters of your love. Guide us with your one true Light, as a lighthouse guides mariners to safe harbor. Quench our thirst for hope, joy and peace in community. And grant us courage to do what is just and right on behalf of the 'least of these.' 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 *At the River* - Traditional Hymn Tune/arr. Aaron Copland
Maxwell Vernon, tenor; Naki Kripfgans, piano

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE **NCH #524** *This Little Light of Mine, v.1*
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
let it shine.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Letters: **Acts 8:14-17**

From the Gospel: **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

One: The Gospel of the Lord, for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Immersed

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **HYMN OF REFLECTION** **NCH # 351** *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

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

Improvisation

- Naki Kripfgans

† **Hymn of Thanksgiving** **NCH #28 v.4** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the good that love inspires, for a world where not exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

† Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Benevolent God, in gratitude, we offer you our time, our possessions, and all that we are. We praise you, not only with our words but with our whole lives. Receive all that we offer and make our lives reflections of your bountiful goodness and love, so that through us others may be blessed. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

Chalice # 371

Wade in the Water

371

Wade in the Water

Wade in the wa - ter, (chil-dren,) wade in the

wa - ter, chil - dren, wade in the wa - ter,

God's a-going to trou-ble the wa - ter. O wa - ter.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. Willa A. Townsend

WADE IN THE WATER

1. See that host all dressed in white,
 2. See that band all dressed in red,
 3. Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
 4. If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

(Hum)

God's a-going to trou-ble the wa-ter; the lead - er looks like the
 God's a-going to trou-ble the wa-ter; looks like the band that
 God's a-going to trou-ble the wa-ter; the Ho - ly Ghost a -
 God's a-going to trou-ble the wa-ter; just fol - low me down to

(Hum)

Is - ra - el - ite, God's a - going to trou - ble the wa - ter.
 Mo - ses led, God's a - going to trou - ble the wa - ter.
 com-ing on me, God's a - going to trou - ble the wa - ter.
 Jor - dan's stream, God's a - going to trou - ble the wa - ter.

D.C.

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *In dir ist Freude (In You is Gladness), BWV 615* - J. S. Bach
 Naki Kripfgans, organ

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

Soloist: Maxwell Vernon

Liturgist: Please see [Signup Genius](#) for open dates

Sound Technicians: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technicians: Oliver Kripfgans, Michelle Loukotka, Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer: Pete Hendershot

Coffee Hour Host: Ron and Alice Dechert

Reach out to us:

423 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org



a just world for all