

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter*



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.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Total 42

ATTENDANCE FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Total: 172 (In Person:126, YouTube: 41, Phone: 5)

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 will be called about 5 minutes before worship begins.)

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

MISSION MOMENT

CENTERING MUSIC

Processional on CRUCIFER - Lift High the Cross - Nicholson/arr. Callahan
Gail Jenning, organ

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 118)

One: The Lord is my strength and my salvation!

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

One: We shall not die, but live;

All: and give thanks for the good works of the Lord!

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

† HYMN OF GATHERING NCH # 238 v.1-3 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of love and grace, you are the Rock of our salvation and Foundation of our lives. In this glorious Easter season, reveal yourself to us and guide us in your ways. Give us vision, courage and strength to be your Easter people – proclaiming your amazing love, embodied by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in every aspect of our lives. Make us shine as beacons of hope, to dispel the darkness of our world. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

"Every Valley Shall Be Exalted" from *Messiah* - George Frideric Handel
Maxwell Vernon, tenor; Gail Jennings, piano

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low;
The crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH # 236 *Halleluja*
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Gospel: John 20:19-31

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE *Unlocked* Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 241 *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & 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

Hymn to the Sun

- Paul Halley

Gail Jennings, piano

† Hymn of Thanksgiving NCH # 780 *Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.

† Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Loving God, you have given us so much. What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough. Yet, what little we have we humbly offer to you. May all that we have to offer in time, talent and treasure proclaim your triumphant love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN NCH # 256 v.1-3 *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight*

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Paraphrase on MACCABAEUS - Thine is the Glory

- Alexandre Guilmant

Gail Jennings, organ

BRIEF BYLAWS PRESENTATION

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

Guest Organist: Gail Jennings

Soloist: Maxwell Vernon

Liturgist: Teresa Beagle

Sound Technicians: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technicians: Oliver Kripfgans, Michelle Loukotka,

Security Volunteer: Steve Darr

Coffee Hour: Member Care (Baked goods provided by Outreach, Habitat for Humanity)

Reach out to us:

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(734) 665-6149

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<https://www.bethlehem-ucc.org>

