

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday of 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 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 Wednesday

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 85 (In Person:67, YouTube:16, 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 will be called about 5 minutes before worship begins.)

September 14, 2025 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

CENTERING MUSIC *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* - Brant Adams
Ryo Morita, trumpet; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 51)
One: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
All: and renew a right spirit within me.

† **HYMN OF GATHERING** **NCH # 55 v. 1-3** *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)
O God, remind us who we are and whose we are – your beloved children. Whenever we feel lost, by the power of the Spirit, turn up our inner GPS to guide us back to you. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**
One: The peace of Christ be with you!
Many: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace* - Mark Hayes
Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Ryo Morita, trumpet

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE **NCH # 236** *Hallelujah* (sung twice)
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Letters: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

From the Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Lost & found

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 1 v.1-3 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

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 power,
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 # 780** (lyrics #778)

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. Amen.

† **Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

God of abundant love, may these gifts be our response to your love. Please use all our gifts of time, talent and treasure to bless others. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† **CLOSING HYMN** **NCH # 40** *You Are the Way*

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *III. Allegro scherzando from Trumpet Concerto, Op. 18 - Oskar Böhme*
Ryo Morita, trumpet; Naki Kripfgans, piano

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

Soloist: Ryo Morita

Liturgist:

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer: Pete Hendershot

Community Time: Rev. Dawn Christenson

Reach out to us:

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

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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

