

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*September 7, 2025
Thirteenth 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: 66 (In Person:47, YouTube:17, 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.)

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND SHARING CHURCH LIFE

CENTERING MUSIC *Change My Heart, Oh God* - Naki Kripfgans
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 1)

One: Happy are those who delight in the ways of the Lord!

All: They are like trees planted by streams of life-giving water.

† **HYMN OF GATHERING** **NCH # 12** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Gracious God, sometimes we struggle in life. Sometimes we make silly choices. Guide us we pray. You are the Potter; we are the clay; mold us into who you need us be. 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 *Draw the Circle Wide* - Mark Miller
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

(Refrain) Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE **NCH # 236** ***Hallelujah*** (sung once- lively)
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Prophets: **Jeremiah 18:1-11**

From the Gospel: **Luke 14:25-33**

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Remodeled

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION **NCH # 25 v.1-4** ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: . . .Now, let us prepare our hearts. The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL SPP # 112 *Come to the Table of Grace*

(sung during the meal)

(note: all bread is gluten-free; red cups contain juice; white cups contain wine; prepackaged elements also available; please place empty cups in the baskets)

[verse order: grace, peace, love, joy]

Come to the table of [grace].

Come to the table of [grace].

This is Christ's table not just yours or mine.

Come to the table of [grace].

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Gracious God, thank you for refreshing us at your table through
this sacred meal. Now, send us forth into the world, led by the power of
the Holy Spirit. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another;
and empower us to reflect your glory, goodness and love in our daily
lives. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

NCH # 607

We Would Be Building

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F, BuxWV 157

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Ensemble: Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Liturgist: Judy Coucouvanis

Sound Technician: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, please contact church office

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

Reach out to us:

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

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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

