

[illegible]

Nineteenth 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.

DEATHS

Bethlehem member, **Violet Edwards**, passed away on October 6, 2025. Bethlehem members **Myrna Pancost** and **Glen Diuble** passed away on October 10, 2025.

Please keep these families in your prayers during their time of grief.

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 51 (In Person: 34, YouTube: 15, 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

Down to the River to Pray

- arr. Mary McDonald

Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 121)

One: I lift my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?

All: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: I place my trust in the Lord, my God.

All: God's faithfulness endures forever.

† HYMN OF GATHERING NCH # 476 v.1, 2 & 4 *How Can I Keep From Singing*

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Merciful God, show us the way to fullness of life in and with you: so that we might respond to opportunities; so that we might be strengthened to bravely face challenges; so that we might become the people you call us to be; and thereby reach out in love and compassion to help others and fill them with hope. 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

Total Praise - Richard Smallwood
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills,
Knowing my help is coming from You.
Your peace, you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life,
I lift my hands in total praise to You.
Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH # 793 *Holy, Holy, Holy*
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

From the Torah: **Genesis 32:22-31**

From the Gospel: **Luke 18:1-8**

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Persistence Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 506 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* - arr. Jeffery Honore
Bethlehem Handbell Choir

† 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)

Benevolent God, from your hand we have freely received. Accept and bless the offerings of your people, as expressions of our gratitude. By your Spirit, may they enrich the lives of others. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN **NCH # 436 v.1-4** ***God of Grace and God of Glory***

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *IV. Glory to God from "Jazz Mass for Organ"* - Joe Utterback
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

Ensembles: Bethlehem Chancel Choir & Bethlehem Handbell Choir

Liturgist: Steve Bowers

Sound Technician: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Jennifer Vasquesz

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, please contact church office

Coffee Hour Host: Judy Coucouvanis

Reach out to us:

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

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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

