

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday of Lent*



## 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, **Eugene Alber**,  
who turns 97 on March 3rd.



## CHURCH LIFE

Bethlehem member, Evelyn Port is in the hospital.

Please pray for a speedy recovery

## ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

**Total: 55** (In Person: 34, YouTube: 17, Phone: 4)

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

*O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid (Oh sadness, Oh heartbreak), BWV 1169*

- J. S. Bach/completed by Lorenzo Ghielmi

Cary Dumas, organ

### OPENING WORSHIP

#### † CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship God, who is reconciled to us through Christ.

**All: We are new creations; the old is gone; the new has come!**

One: Let us worship God, as Christ's ambassadors.

**All: In all we say and do, let us proclaim the love of God and the Good News to all!**

#### † HYMN OF GATHERING

**NCH #208**

***God Loved the World***

#### † OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Loving God, we come to you filled with more questions than answers, bewildered by the ways of the world, and uncertain of what the future brings. In spite of our dog-eat-dog world, guide us by your Spirit and fill us with hope. Ground us in Christ Jesus, who makes all things new. Refresh, restore and renew us, so that we may help transform and renew our little corners of the world into worthy reflections of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

#### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### MESSAGE IN MUSIC

*How Beautiful*

- Twila Paris/arr. Lloyd Larson

PJ Lindeman & Bailey Tallman, duet; Cary Dumas, piano

How beautiful the hands that served  
The wine and the bread and the children of the earth.  
How beautiful the feet that walked  
The long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.  
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful  
Is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled,  
That took all my sin and bore it instead.  
How beautiful the tender eyes  
That choose to forgive and never despise.  
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful  
Is the body of Christ.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

How beautiful the feet that bring  
The sound of good news and the love of the King.  
How beautiful the hands that serve  
The wine and the bread and the sons of the Earth.  
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful  
Is the body of Christ.

## **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)

Lyric 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)

**Benevolent God, we thank you for refreshing us at your table. We thank you for Jesus, through whom we are forgiven and reconciled to you – renewed and restored to fullness of life. By your Spirit, may this sacred meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, open our hearts to the power of forgiveness, and grant us courage to be your ambassadors for peace and justice in the world. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**NCH #327**

***Jesus Loves Me v.1***

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! The bible tells me so.**

*Children may leave for Sunday School during the song.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**From the Gospel: John 3:1-17**

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

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**MESSAGE**

*Second chances*

Pastor Dawn

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

† **HYMN OF REFLECTION**

**NCH #40**

***You Are the Way***

## 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

*Ubi caritas*  
Cary Dumas, organ

- Alan Bullard

† **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 compassion, we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, given with our gratitude. May all that we offer bless the lives of others, as we have been blessed through Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† **CLOSING HYMN**

**NCH #49**

*Ask Me What Great Thing I Know?*

## WORDS OF SENDING

### POSTLUDE

*Deep River, from Suite No. 2*  
Cary Dumas, organ

- Daniel Ficarri

**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:** Cary Dumas

**Singers:** PJ Lindeman and Bailey Tallman

**Liturgist:** Judy Coucouvanis

**Sound Technician:** Jesse Wilcox

**Videographer:** Dan Blakeney

**Streaming Technician:**

**Security Volunteer:** Volunteers needed, contact church office

**Community Time Host:** Jacquie Katz

**Reach out to us:**

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

[info@bethlehem-ucc.org](mailto:info@bethlehem-ucc.org)

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



a just world for all