

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*April 26, 2026  
Fourth 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.

## **DEATHS**

Bethlehem Church member, Arlene Finkbeiner, passed away on, Tuesday April 21, 2026.

Please keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time



## **CHURCH LIFE**

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

## **ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY**

**Total:81** (In Person:54, YouTube:24, Phone:3)

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**

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

*Méditation, Op. 33* - Mel Bonis  
Katri Ervamaa, cello; Naki Kripfgans, piano

### OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 79)

One: We are your people, O God, the flock of your pasture.

**All: We thank you and praise you for your goodness in our lives!**

† **OPENING HYMN**

**NCH # 237**

*I Come to the Garden Alone*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

**O Lord, our Good Shepherd, there are times when we become scattered, when things frighten us. There are other times when we become lost, while seeking greener pastures. Gently, guide us back to you, we pray. (If necessary, use a well-trained Corgi to herd us where you need us to go.) Above all, show us how to love others abundantly as you do, and to embrace them in welcome just as you embrace us every time we return to you. Amen.**

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**MESSAGE IN MUSIC**

*For Everyone Born* - Brian Mann/arr. Tom Trenney  
Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Katri Ervamaa, cello

V 1: For everyone born, a place at the table,  
For everyone born, clean water and bread,  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
For everyone born, a star over head.

Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace;

Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice, and joy!

V 2: For woman and man, a place at the table,  
Revising the roles, deciding to share,  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
A system that's fair.

V 3: For young and for old, a place at the table,  
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
For young and for old, the right to belong.

V 4: For everyone born, a place at the table,  
To live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free!

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**                    **NCH # 236 *Halleluja***    sung twice  
**Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.**  
**Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja, halleluja.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**From the Gospel:**                    **John 10:1-14**

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

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

## **MESSAGE**

*Good shepherding*

Pastor Dawn

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

## **† HYMN OF REFLECTION**

**NCH # 252**    *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

## **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**

*What Wondrous Love Is This* - American Folk Hymn/arr. Childers  
Bethlehem Handbell Choir

† **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 Redeemer. Amen.**

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

† **CLOSING HYMN**                      **NCH # 417 v.1-4**                      *This is a Day of New Beginnings*

## **WORDS OF SENDING**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Sérénade* - Mel Bonis  
Katri Ervamaa, cello; 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

**Ensembles:** Bethlehem Chancel Choir & Bethlehem Handbell Choir

**Soloist:** Dr. Katri Ervamaa

**Liturgist:** Jan Eadie

**Sound Technician:** Dennis Huibregtse

**Videographer:** Dan Blakeney

**Streaming Technician:** Oliver Kripfgans

**Security Volunteer:** Steve Darr

**Community Time Host:** Jim and Katie Rowan

**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