

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday*



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, **Doug Barnett**
who turns 93 on April 10th



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total:81 (In Person:66, YouTube:12, 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.)

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today,
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before You, and wait upon Your Word,
We honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know Your favor may serve You as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in Your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things:
to whom be the glory forever. 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

NCH #330

Let Us Break Bread Together

(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)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Holy One, we thank you for refreshing us at your table. We thank you and praise you for the gift of Christ's redemptive love and for giving us new life in him! By your Spirit, strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another; and send us forth into the world with courage and mercy. As we have been fed by your love, empower us to feed all those who are hungry in heart, and empower us to quench the thirst of all those who thirst for justice and peace. All this we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.

† SONG OF PRAISE: NCH # 793 *Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)*
 Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
 My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH # 236 *Halleluja* sung twice
 Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.
 (Children may remain in worship with their families.)

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE *Shaken, not stirred* Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 245 *The Day of Resurrection*

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

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" from *Messiah* - G. F. Handel
PJ Lidemann, soprano; Naki Kripfgans, organ

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
And that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead,
The first fruits of them that sleep.

† 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 #241 *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*
If you would like to join in singing Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus, please come forward during the hymn - the score is provided at the sanctuary doors.

WORDS OF SENDING

CHORAL / CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Hallelujah" Chorus from *Messiah* - G. F. Handel
Congregation & Bethlehem Chancel Choir
Easter Brass Quintet; Cary Dumas, organ; Julian Toogood, timpani

POSTLUDE *Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5* - Charles-Marie Widor
Naki Kripfgans, organ

2026 Easter Gifts in Memory Of

Begonia Reiger in Memory of:

Our son, David
Arlene Connell
Our Parents
Jay Katz
Roland & Grace Wurster

Kalanchoe in Memory of:

Arlene Connell
Nancy Heusel
Nancy Schenk
Bill & Rita White

Martha Washington Geranium in Memory of:

Charles & Frances Birch
Jan Burnham
Arlene Connell
Bill & Aletta Kulenkamp
Robert & Jeanne Opperman
Chuck Raab
Carl & Jean Raab
C. H. & Mary Stanley
Ronald White

Easter Lily in Memory of:

Glenn W. Bailey
Paul Thibault

Broadcast Fund Fund:

Jospeh, Laura, John, Jean, & Jennifer O'Reilly

Cemetery Maintenance Fund:

Glenn W. Bailey
Norm & Helen Grob
Manfred Hilberer, Parents & Grandparents
Frederick & Lela Keppler and brother, Hugh
Jerry Landers, My Parents & Grandparents

General Fund:

Manfred Hilberer, Parents & Grandparents
Jerry Landers, My Parents & Grandparents

Begonia Reiger in Honor of:

Our daughter, Karen
Arlene Finkbeiner
Sally Jaworowski

Kalanchoe in Honor of:

Arlene Finkbeiner

Martha Washington Geranium in Honor of:

Laura Baker
Marilyn Boyd
Amy Byrd
Doris Whitlock

Given by:

Eugene & Marj Alber
Cathleen Connell
Mike & Dindy Haab
Jacquie Katz
Pastor Diane

Given by:

Cathleen Connell
The Schenk Family
The Schenk Family
Pastor Diane

Given by:

Gary & Marilyn Pearson
Mary Raab
Cathleen Connell
Nancy Thibault
Judy Coucouvanis
Mary Raab
Mary Raab
Jacquie Katz
Pastor Diane

Given by:

Judith Bailey
Nancy Thibault

Given by:

Pat & Shannon O'Reilly

Given by:

Judith Bailey
Conrad & Norma Foster
Theresa Hilberer
Mary & Audrey Keppler
Sharon Landers

Given by:

Theresa Hilberer
Sharon Landers

2026 Easter Gifts in Honor Of

Given by:

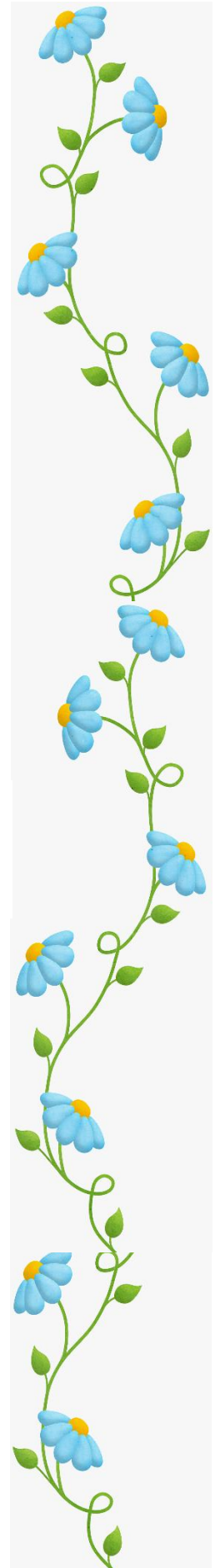
Eugene & Marj Alber
Mike & Harriette Ehnis
Jim & Susan Irwin

Given by:

Jim & Susan Irwin

Given by:

The Schenk Family
The Schenk Family
Gary & Marilyn Pearson
Mike & Harriette Ehnis



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: PJ Lindemann

Guest Musicians: Cary Dumas, Becky Bloomer, Edmond Wang, Kurt Civilette,
John Gruber, Phillip Bloomer, Julian Toogood

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

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, please contact church office

Community Time Host: Member Engagement

Reach out to us:

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

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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

