

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*May 24, 2026
Pentecost 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.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total:70 (In Person:53, YouTube:14, 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

CENTERING MUSIC

Welcome
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

- Mark Miller

1. Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,
Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

2. Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,
Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

3. Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!
Crying welcome! Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Spirit of the living God, move through this chaotic world.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

One: Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers to living abundantly,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come!

One: Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come!

One: With speech that unites with God's truth and love,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come!

One: With love that washes away all boundaries that divide us,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come!

One: With power to transform our world into a place of peace and harmony,

All: come, Holy Spirit, come!

† OPENING HYMN

NCH # 261

Let Every Christian Pray

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Breath of God, blow from us all darkness and despair, all fears, all falsehood and selfish desires, and all wasteful worries. Breathe into us new life, with your holy presence, your abundant love, your healing touch, your courage and strength, your divine mercy, your boundless joy, and your peace that surpasses all understanding. Renew, restore and refresh us, O Breath of Life, to faithfully serve you in the world. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

God Be with You Till We Meet Again - William G Tomer/arr. Knoedler
Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Bailey Tallman, soloist

1. God be with you till we meet again, by His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again, when life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you, God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again, keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threat'ning wave before you, God be with you till we meet again.

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 Letters: **Acts 2:1-21**

From the Gospel: **John 7:37-39**

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Fire & water

Pastor Dawn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **HYMN OF REFLECTION** **NCH # 290** *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

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

II. "Come as the Dew" from *Come, O Creator Spirit, Come* - Larry Visser
Naki Kripfgans, organ

† 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. Amen.**

† 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 # 286

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

V. "Come as Fire" from *Come, O Creator Spirit, Come*
Naki Kripfgans, organ

- Larry Visser

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: Jan Eadie

Sound Technician: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Michelle Loukotka

Security Volunteer: Steve Darr

Community Time Host: Jim and Katie Rowan

Reach out to us:

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



a just world for all