

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after 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.



FLOWERS

The flowers today are from **Kurt Schmerberg** in honor of
Pastor Matthew Hogue-Smith.

DEATHS

Bethlehem member **Lois Hieber** passed away on June 10, 2026, and former member
Ann Lacoste passed away on June 13, 2026. Please keep their families in your prayers.
God grant eternal rest unto their souls.

CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 55 (In Person: 36, YouTube:14, Phone: 5)

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

We Gather Together - arr. Brant Adams
Oliver Bishop, clarinet; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather remembering the faithfulness of God in generations past.

All: We give thanks for the saints whose courage brought us to this day!

One: Yet, God is not confined to yesterday's stories or victories.

All: God is still speaking, still leading, still making all things new.

One: With grateful hearts and hopeful spirits, let us workshop the God who leads us forward.

† OPENING HYMN

NCH # 475

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Faithful and loving God, we give thanks for the saints who came before us, for the prayers they prayed, the sacrifices they made, and the witness they offered. Through their faith you have brought us to this day. Open the eyes of our hearts to see where your Spirit is moving now and hearts willing to follow where you lead. As we gather in worship, remind us that you are still speaking, still creating, still making a way where there seems to be no way. Open us to your presence, your purpose and your promise of new life. In Christ's 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

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in E-flat Major, Op. 167 - Camille Saint-Saëns
I. Allegretto

Oliver Bishop, clarinet; Naki Kripfgans, piano

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 Prophet Isaiah: Isaiah 43:16-21

Leader: The word of God, for the people of God!

All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

"Remembering Forward"

Pastor Matthew

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **HYMN OF REFLECTION** **NCH # 403** ***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

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

Improvisation

- Naki Kripfgans

† 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)

Benevolent God, all good gifts come from you. You have given us love, life and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts with grateful hearts. Bless all that we offer, so that others may be blessed too. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

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

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in E-flat Major, Op. 167 - Camille Saint-Saëns

II. Allegro animato

Oliver Bishop, clarinet; Naki Kripfgans, piano

*Communion will be served immediately following worship today,
for anyone who wishes to partake.*

OUR TEAM:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dawn Christenson

Associate Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Guest Pastor: Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

Ministers: All the people

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan

Soloist: Oliver Bishop

Liturgist: Jan Eadie

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer:Volunteers needed, please contact church office

Community Time Host: Sue Buday

Reach out to us:

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

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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



a just world for all