

*Welcome to  
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*June 28, 2026  
Fifth 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**

Today's flowers are in recognition of the 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of  
**Ron and Alice Dechert.**



## **CHURCH LIFE**

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

## **ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY**

**Total: 95** (In Person: 70, YouTube:23, Phone: 2)

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**     *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*     - William L. Dawson  
Bailey Tallman, mezzo-soprano; Ye Mee Kim, piano

### OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**     (adapted from Psalm 139)

One: Wonderful are your works, O Lord!

**All: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made by your hand!**

One: You know me inside and out,

**All: and love me beyond measure.**

One: No matter what I do or where I go in life,

**All: you are with me always. Praise to you, O Lord!**

† **OPENING HYMN**

**NCH # 325**

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

**Gracious God, remind us who we are and *whose* we are. Remind us that we are created in your image of goodness and love. By your Spirit, nurture that goodness and love within us, and guide us in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### ORDER OF BAPTISM

#### INVITATION

#### QUESTIONS

† **CONGREGATIONAL PROMISES**

Pastor: In this sacrament, we embrace God's eternal love and grace.

**People: We are all God's sons and daughters.**

Pastor: As we welcome Callahan to these sacred waters, do you promise to help him live and grow in Christ?

**People: We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise him your love?

**People: We promise our love.**

Pastor: Do you promise him your support?

**People: We promise our support.**

Pastor: Do you promise him your care and prayers?

**People: We promise our care and prayers.**

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

### PRAYER OF BLESSING

### ACT OF BAPTISM

#### PRAYER

Pastor: We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother, Father and Brother of all the faithful, for this your beloved child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend Callahan, the newest member of the body of Christ.

**All: Grant him strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ Jesus, our Lord, who makes us one. Amen.**

### DECLARATION

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**MESSAGE IN MUSIC**                    *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*                    - Clark H. Gabriel  
Bailey Tallman, mezzo-soprano; Ye Mee Kim, piano

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**                    **NCH # 327 v.1**                    *Jesus Loves Me*  
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.

## SCRIPTURE READING

**From the Torah:**                    **Genesis 18:1-15**

One: May God bless the reading, hearing and understanding of this holy word.

All: Amen.

**MESSAGE**    *And God laughs . . .*    Pastor Dawn

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **HYMN OF REFLECTION**                    **NCH # 351**    *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

## 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

*Mannheim*  
Ye Mee Kim, organ

- arr. Andrew Fletcher

† 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 # 13 v.1-4    *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator*

## WORDS OF SENDING

## POSTLUDE

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

- Joseph Haydn/arr. Don Hustad

Ye Mee Kim, organ

**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:** Dr. Ye Mee Kim

**Soloist:** Bailey Tallman

**Liturgist:** Teresa Beagle

**Sound Technician:** Gary Rogers

**Videographer:** Dan Blakeney

**Streaming Technician:**

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

**Community Time Host:** Please see [Signup Genius](#) for open dates

**Reach out to us:**

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

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



a just world for all