

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*July 12, 2026
Seventh 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 memory of **Ron White**
from **Nan Lefton**



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 54 (In Person: 36, YouTube:15, 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

Thy Word
Naki Kripfgans, piano

- arr. Mark Hayes

OPENING WORSHIP

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalms 65 & 119)

One: Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for our feet.

All: Light our path, O Lord!

One: You sow your goodness in our hearts and all things.

All: Shower us with your love, O God, that we may grow in wisdom and faith.

† **OPENING HYMN** **NCH #63** *Holy Spirit, Truth Devine*

† **OPENING PRAYER** (unison)

Gracious God, we may plow the fields and scatter good seed upon the land, but it is fed and watered by your almighty hand. You send us snow in winter, and warmth to swell the grain - the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above. So, we thank you, Lord! Yes, we thank you, Lord, for your abundant love. We thank you for all things bright and good, the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts we have to offer for all your love imparts, but that which you desire - our humble, thankful hearts. 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 Zachary and Isobel to these sacred waters, do you promise to help them live and grow in Christ?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise them your love?

People: We promise our love.

Pastor: Do you promise them your support?

People: We promise our support.

Pastor: Do you promise them 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 these your beloved children 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 Zachary and Isobel, the newest members of the body of Christ.

All: Grant them 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

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand - arr. Margaret Bonds

Jessica Dold, soprano; Naki Kripfgans, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH # 4 v.1 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sine and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel: **Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23**

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

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

MESSAGE

Planting the Seeds

Pastor Diane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH #318 *Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*

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'll Walk with God - Nicholas Brodzky
Jessica Dold, soprano; 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)

Gracious God, all good gifts come from you. We thank you and praise you, for we and all of Creation are fearfully and wonderfully made by your hand. Bless our hands in service to you. Bless our time, talent and treasure, given in gratitude to you. Bless all that we offer such that it may bless others too. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† **CLOSING HYMN**

NCH #76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C major, BuxWV 174
Naki Kripfgans, organ

- Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Soloist: Jessica Dold

Liturgist: Teresa Beagle

Sound Technician:

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician:

Security Volunteer: Ron Dechert

Community Time Host: Judy Coucouvanis

Reach out to us:

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



a just world for all