

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*July 19, 2026
Eighth 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.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 81 (In Person: 61, YouTube:18, 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

Come, Thou Almighty King
Ye Mee Kim, organ

- arr. Don Hustad

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 86)

One: Teach us your ways, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth.

All: Give us faithful hearts to honor and follow you.

One: We give thanks to you, O Lord,

All: for great is your steadfast love and faithfulness for us!

† OPENING HYMN NCH #70 *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

O God, you are our source and strength. Guide us we pray. Some days we can't tell if we are the weeds or the wheat. Yet, we know that you can bring forth good from everyone and everything – for everyone and everything is created from your goodness and love. Even dandelions provide for honey bees and butterflies. Remind us who we are and whose we are – your beloved children. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

How Great Thou Art - arr. Lloyd Larson
William Lee, bass-baritone; Ye Mee Kim, 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 sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Letters: **Romans 8:12-39**

From the Gospel: **Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43**

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Good or Bad?

Pastor Diane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

NCH #570

We Shall Overcome

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

Communion
Ye Mee Kim, organ

- Juliette Folville

† 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 #81 *God Be with You*

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Perpetuum Mobile
Ye Mee Kim, organ

- Kristina Arakelyan

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: William Lee

Liturgist: Jan Eadie

Sound Technician: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed. Please contact church office.

Community Time Host: Jacqueline Katz

Reach out to us:

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(734) 665-6149

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



a just world for all