

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*August 2, 2026
Tenth 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 in honor of **Olivia Packard and Vicki Hoxie's** birthdays.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 87 (In Person: 73, YouTube:12, 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 *Nocturne* - Alexander Borodin/arr. Christopherson
Sonia Lee, violin; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, with open hearts and open hands.

All: We come to receive God's grace and to share it freely.

One: Christ still takes ordinary gifts and makes them extraordinary through love.

All: Let us worship the One whose abundance grows whenever it is shared.

† OPENING HYMN NCH 495 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy and generous God, you gather us from many places and many stories into one community of faith. Open our hearts to receive your grace, our minds to hear your Word, and hands to serve with joy. Take whatever we bring today, our hopes and questions, our gifts and our needs and bless them for the sake of the world. Teach us to receive your love with gratitude and to pass it on with generosity until all are welcomed, all are nourished, and all know they belong. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *Holy, Holy, Holy* -Duane Funderburk
Sonia Lee, violin; Naki Kripfgans, piano

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

One: Now, let us prepare our hearts. The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

PRAYER OF BLESSING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

NCH # 330

Let Us Break Bread Together

(note: all bread is gluten-free; red cups contain juice; white cups contain wine; prepackaged elements also available; please place empty cups in the baskets)

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Holy One, we give thanks for this sacred meal, where ordinary bread and cup have become signs of your extraordinary grace. You have welcomed us to your table, nourished us with Christ's presence, and reminded us that there is always enough of your love to share. As you have fed us, now send us to feed others. May the grace we have received not remain with us, but move from hand to hand. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

NCH # 347

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

Children may leave for Sunday School during the song.

SCRIPTURE READING

From the Gospel:

Matthew 14:13-21

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

From Hand to Hand

Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

NCH 448

Take my Life, God, Let It Be
(Vs. 1,2,4.)

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)

All that we have comes first from your gracious hand. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our trust. Bless them, and bless us, that what is offered here today may pass from hand to hand, bringing hope, compassion, and new life to our neighbors and to your world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

NCH 562

Take My Gifts

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Bourrée from Orchestral Suite No. 1

- J. S. Bach/arr. Krantz

Sonia Lee, violin; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OUR TEAM:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

Associate Pastor: Rev. Diane White

Ministers: All the people

Director of Music & Organist: Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans

Director of Handbells: Jim Rowan

Soloist: Sonia Lee

Liturgist: Judy Coucouvanis

Sound Technician: Gary Rogers

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician:

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, contact church office

Community Time Host: Jenny Foster

Reach out to us:

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

