

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*August 23, 2026
Thirteenth 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 are in memory of **Teresa and Dave Beagle's** wedding anniversary
from Teresa Beagle



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 77 (In Person: 59, YouTube: 18, Phone:0)

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

"Zdes' khorosho" (It Is Good to Be Here) - Sergei Rachmaninoff
Jacob Warren, double bass; Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's story is shaped by faithful hearts, both known and unknown.

All: We gather trusting that every faithful "yes" matters.

One: God works through ordinary lives to accomplish extraordinary love.

All: Let us worship the One who calls us, equips us, and sends us forth.

† OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal # 452

Here I Am Lord

Please See Insert

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Faithful God, you often meet us in ordinary moments and invite us into quiet acts of courage. Open our hearts to your presence among us this day. Give us wisdom to discern your voice and the courage to answer with our own faithful "yes." May our worship shape us into people who reflect your hope in the world. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Romance

- Amy Beach

Jacob Warren, double bass; Naki Kripfgans, piano

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jesus loves me, this I know, as God loved so long ago, taking children on their knee, saying, "Let them come to me." Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! For the Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 1:15-21

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

An Extraordinary "YES!"

Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH # 454 Lord, I Want To Be a Christian (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

I Danced in the Morning
Naki Kripfgans, organ

- arr. Douglas Wagner

† 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)

Holy one, receive these gifts from which they came. Bless every act of generosity, whether seen or unseen, and use them to bring hope and healing into your world. May we like Shiphrah and Puah offer our quiet courage and our own faithful “yes” through all that we give. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

NCH # 525

This Little Light of Mine

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

No. 1 from Romantic Pieces, Op. 75 - Antonín Dvořák
Jacob Warren, double bass; 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: Jacob Warren

Liturgist: Teresa Beagle

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Security Volunteer: Steve Darr

Community Time Host: Ron and Alice Dechert

Reach out to us:

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



a just world for all