

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*

*Miracles
happen
all the
time*

*August 9, 2026
Eleventh 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.



Happy Birthday to Bethlehem member, **David Haworth**,
who turns 91 on August 11th.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are in honor of **Carol Aldrich's** birthday
from her daughter, Shelli Aldrich-Reed.



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 86 (In Person: 72, 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

Elegy
Cary Dumas, organ

- George Thalben-Ball

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Matthew 14:22-33)

One: Come, all who have weathered calm seas and stormy waters.
People

All: We come trusting that Christ meets us wherever we are.

One: The One who fed the crowds now comes to us in the midst of the waves saying "It is I. Do not be afraid"

All: We come to worship the Christ who strengthens our faith beyond our yesterday miracles.

† OPENING HYMN

NCH 451

Be Now My Vision (Vs 1-3)

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Expansive and ever-present God, quiet the noise within us so we may hear your voice within our hearts. Loosen our grip on certainty, deepen our trust in your love, and open us to the ways you continue to shape us through both joy and challenge. As we worship, renew our hope, strengthen our compassion, and send us from this place ready to follow wherever Christ leads. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Eternal Life
Teddy Borsodi, soprano; Cary Dumas, piano

- Olive Dungan

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14:22-33

From the Gospel:

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

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

MESSAGE Faith After Miracles Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION NCH 423 Great is Your Faithfulness (Vs 1-2)

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 *Draw Us to Thee* - Johann Gottfried Walther
Cary Dumas, 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)

Holy One, receive these gifts and bless what we have offered whether it be our time, talent or treasure. May these gifts become bread for the hungry, hope for the weary, justice for the oppressed, and a welcome for all who seek your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN NCH 391 In the Midst of New Dimensions (Vs 1,2,5)

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *Fantasia on Hymntune BILLING* - Simon Lole
Cary Dumas, organ

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

Guest Organist: Cary Dumas

Soloist: Teddy Borsodi

Liturgist: Joe Eadie

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Jennifer Vasquez

Security Volunteer: Ron Dechert

Community Time Host: Jacqueline Katz

Reach out to us:

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



a just world for all