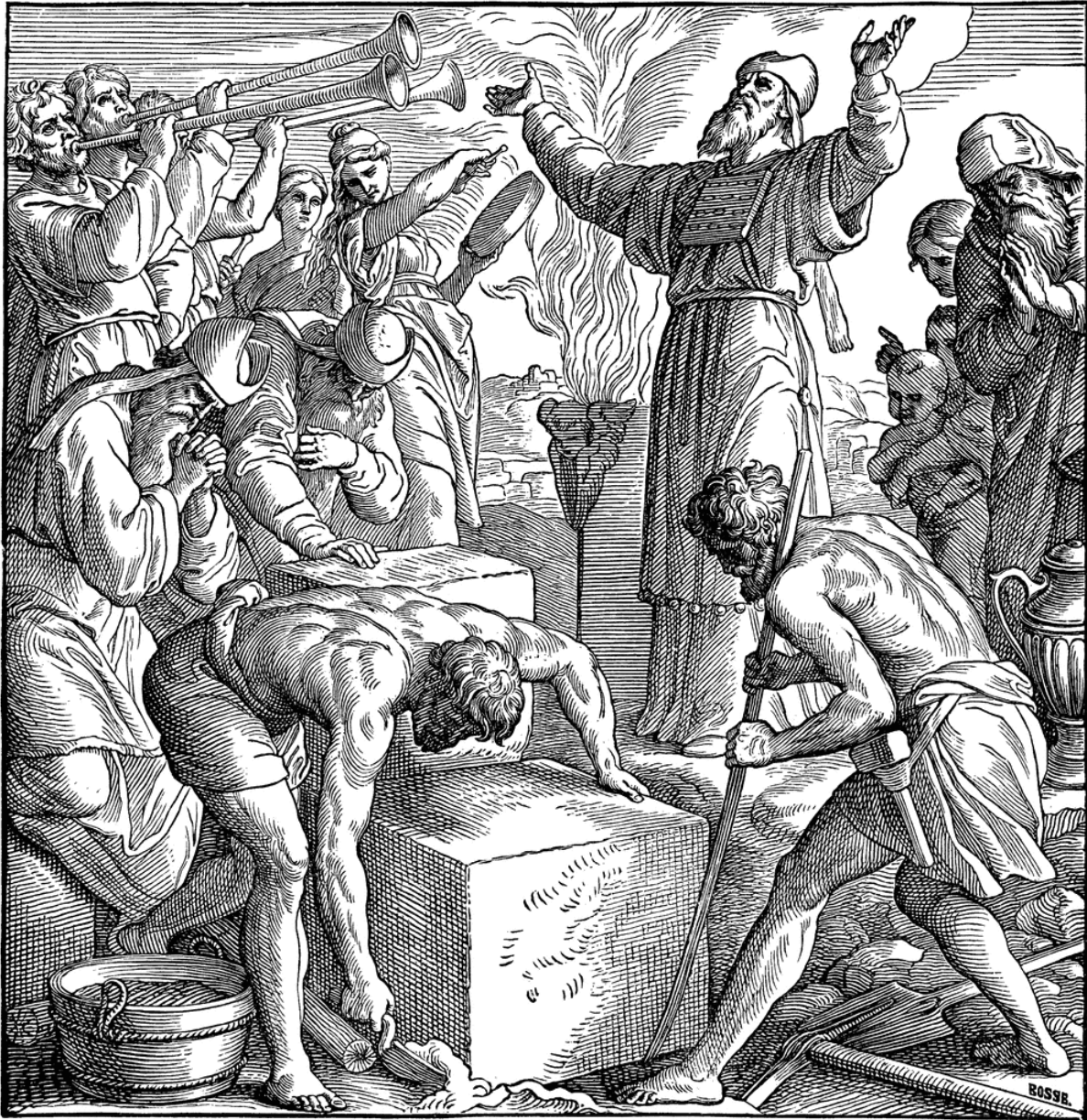


*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*October 4, 2026
Nineteenth 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.



DEATHS

Bethlehem member, **Ruth Williamann**, passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time in 2027.

Please keep Ruth's family in your prayers during this time of grief.

CHURCH LIFE

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

FLOWERS

The flowers today are in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall and Roland Kearney** from the Larry Marshall Family and Donna Kearney

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total:56 (In Person: 36, 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 for 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 *The Solid Rock* - arr. Craig Curry
Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all whom God is gathering into grace.

All: God welcomes every gift no matter how small.

One: Christ is our cornerstone, setting the direction of our lives.

All: We offer ourselves to the new thing God is building among us.

One: God is still building. Let us worship with hope!

† **OPENING HYMN** **Chalice #537** **My Hope is Built**

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Creator God, gather every part of our lives into your loving work. Align us with Christ, our cornerstone, and open us to the new things that you are creating among us. Give us the courage to release what no longer gives life and faith to trust that you are not finished with us yet. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *We Are One in the Lord* - Joseph Martin
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

We are one in the Spirit of the Lord!
One in the water, one in the Word;
We are one in the Spirit of Christ, the Lord!
We are one at the table of the Lord!
Come to the feast and be restored;
We are one at the table of Christ, the Lord!

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

We are one by the miracle of grace!
One in our worship, one in our praise;
Let us sing of his glory for all our days!
We are one by the miracle of grace!

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!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING THE MEAL Chalice #429 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

(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

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:42

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE God is Still Building! Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION Chalice #254 Breath on Me, Breath of God (1-3)

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 *Where Charity and Love Prevail* - Larry Visser
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)

Holy One, receive these gifts and place them within the work you are doing among us. Christ, as our cornerstone, use what we offer to welcome the rejected, strengthen our community, and make new life possible. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† **CLOSING HYMN** Chalice #434 **God Be With You Till We Meet Again (1-3)**

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *How Firm a Foundation* - arr. Carolyn Hamlin
Naki Kripfgans, 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

Ensemble: Bethlehem Chancel Choir

Liturgist: Please see [Signup Genius](#) for open dates

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician:

Security Volunteer: Volunteers needed, please contact Church office

Community Time Host: Jim and Katie Rowan

Reach out to us:

423 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(734) 665-6149

info@bethlehem-ucc.org

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

