

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*September 13, 2026
Sixteenth 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:54 (In Person: 36, 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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* - arr. Mark Hayes
Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Gail Jennings, organ

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: All who hunger for mercy and long for a place to belong are welcome here.

All: We gather at God's invitation, each of us welcomed and valued.

One: In God's household, grace is not rationed and no one is forgotten.

All: There is room for every person and enough for every life.

One: Let us worship the God whose goodness reaches first and last alike.

† OPENING HYMN NCH #475 **God's Eye is on the Sparrow**

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Comforting God, you call us from the places where we wait and welcome us into the work of your kingdom. Quiet the fear that tells us there will never be enough, and loosen our need to measure our lives against others. Teach us to receive with gratitude and recognize the sacred worth of every neighbor. In this morning hour, renew our trust in your goodness and shape us into people through whom your abundance may flow. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Draw the Circle Wide
Bethlehem Chancel Choir

- Mark Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

(Refrain) Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

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

Matthew 20:1-16

From the Gospel:

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Enough for Everyone

Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

NCH #488

Be Still, My Soul

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)

Holy One, receive these gifts and the labor, hope, and gratitude they represent. Bless the hands that shared them. Use this offering to sustain ministry, meet every human need, and build a community in which no one is overlooked or left without daily bread. May what we place before you become part of your generous work in this world. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† **CLOSING HYMN**

NCH #423

Great is Your Faithfulness

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Allegro from "Solomon"

- G. F. Handel

Gail Jennings and Naki Kripfgans, organ duet

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: Teresa Beagle

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Security Volunteer: Ron Dechert

Community Time Host: Ron and Alice Dechert

