

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*September 27, 2026
Eighteenth 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

Judy Humbel passed away on September 14, 2026
Please keep her family in your prayers



CHURCH LIFE

Bethlehem member, Jim Aldrich, is in the hospital. Please keep him in your prayers

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total: 57 (In Person: 40, YouTube:15, 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 *Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639* - J. S. Bach
Ye Mee Kim, organ

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the wilderness is dry and our spirits are thirsty, God meets us with grace.

All: Living God, open the rock and let your waters flow.

One: When we wonder if God is close to us, God draws nearer to us.

All: Let us worship the God who brings life from unexpected places.

† **OPENING HYMN** **NCH #459** **Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Spirit of the Living God, we come before you thirsty for your presence and grace. Meet us in the wilderness places of our lives and remind us that you are already there. Open our hearts to receive your living water and love and let it flow through us into the world.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

There Is a Balm in Gilead - Spiritual/arr. Mark Hayes
William Lee, baritone-bass; Ye Mee Kim, 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 17:1-7

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

The Living Water

Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION Chalice #577 Nearer, My God, To Thee (Vs 1-3)

See Insert

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is - Irish melody/arr. Jeffrey Honore
Bethlehem Handbell Choir

† 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)

God of living water, receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude
and trust. Let them flow through this congregation, bringing hope
to the weary, care to those in need, and life to our community.
Use what we offer to share your love wherever the ground feels
dry. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN NCH #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *I. Allegro from Concerto in A minor, BWV 593* - J. S. Bach
Ye Mee Kim, 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: Ye Mee Kim

Ensemble: Bethlehem Handbell Choir

Soloist: William Lee

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

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans

Security Volunteer: Steve Darr

Community Time Host: Judy Coucouvanis

Reach out to us:

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



a just world for all