

*Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ*



*October 18, 2026
Twenty-First 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 **Judy Barnett**, passed away on October 7th.

Please keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time



CHURCH LIFE

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

ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Total:71 (In Person: 53, YouTube:13, Phone: 3)

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

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship - Holy Manna/arr. Linda Lamb
Bethlehem Handbell Choir

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who are weary and need to be carried.

All: We gather to share the weight and strengthen one another.

One: When the way seems blocked, Christ still makes room for healing.

All: Give us faith to take a corner and love strong enough to carry together.

One: Let us bring one another into the presence of God. Let us worship!

† OPENING HYMN

Chalice #490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Compassionate God, gather us into your presence and remind us that we were meant to carry life alone. Give us humility to receive help, courage to offer it, and faith to keep making a way toward healing. Shape us into a community where every burden is shared and every person has someone willing to take a corner. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC

Come to Me

- Dan Forrest

Teddy Borsodi, soprano; Katie Rowan, violin; Gail Jennings, piano

Come to Me, all you who labor
Come to Me, and I will give you rest;
Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened
And you will find rest for your souls. (*Matt 11:28-29*)

Come, my child, (*2 Cor 6:18*)
Learn my heart, for I am gentle and lowly. (*Matt 11:29*)
See how great my love for you
That I have called you my child. (*1 John 3:1*)

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

Mark 2:1-5

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

MESSAGE

Take a Corner

Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION

Chalice #501

There Is a Balm in Gilead

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

Siciliano

- J. S. Bach

Katie Rowan, violin; Gail Jennings, 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 as our willingness to take a corner and
share in your kingdom work. Use them to lift burdens, open pathways,
and carry your healing love into our church and community. Amen.**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN

Chalice #562

Because He Lives

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Gail Jennings, organ

- John Johnson/arr. Lowe

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 Handbell Choir

Guest Organist: Gail Jennings

Musicians: Teddy Borsodi and Katie Rowan

Liturgist: Jan Eadie

Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse

Videographer: Dan Blakeney

Streaming Technician: Jennifer Vasquez

Community Time Host: Jacquie Katz and Beth Wenner

Reach out to us:

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



a just world for all