Welcome to
Bethlehem United Church of Christ



November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus didn't turn people away
Neither Do We. United Church of Christ

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: 80 (In Person: 63, YouTube:14, 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 *Change My Heart, Oh God* - arr. Mark Hayes
Naki Kripfgans, piano

OPENING WORSHIP

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has placed gifts, possibilities, and purpose within each of us.
All: We come ready to offer what we have.
One: God calls us beyond fear and into faithful living.
All: We will use what has been entrusted to us with courage and love.
One: Let us worship God and prepare our hearts for faithful service.

† OPENING HYMN **Chalice 381** **Take My Gifts**

† OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of courage and possibility, you have placed gifts within each of us and called us to share them. Free us from the fear that causes us to hide what we have been given. Open our hearts to your presence and guide us to use what is in our hands for the good of our neighbors and the building of your beloved community. Amen.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* - Johannes Brahms
Bethlehem Chancel Choir; Cary Dumas, organ

How lovely is Thy dwelling place,
O Lord of Hosts!

For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth
for the courts of the Lord;
my soul and body crieth out,
yea, for the living God.

O blest are they that dwell within Thy house;
they praise Thy name evermore. *[Psalm 84:1–2, 4]*

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 25:14-30**

Leader: The Word of God, for the people of God!
All: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

MESSAGE What's in Your Hands? Rev. Matthew Hogue-Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN OF REFLECTION **Chalice #452** **Here I Am, Lord**

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 'Chosen' Tune* - Herbert Howells
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)

Source of every good gift, receive these offerings as signs of our trust and gratitude. Take what we place into your hands and use it to strengthen your church, care for our neighbors, and create new possibilities within our community. Give us courage to offer our whole lives in faithful service. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

† CLOSING HYMN **Chalice #614** **I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

WORDS OF SENDING

POSTLUDE *Ferland's March* - William P. Rowan
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
Ensemble: Bethlehem Chancel Choir
Guest Organist: Cary Dumas
Liturgist: Please see Signup Genius for open dates
Usher: Steve Darr / Mike Haab
Sound Technician: Dennis Huibregtse
Videographer: Dan Blakeney
Streaming Technician: Oliver Kripfgans
Community Time Host: Jacquie Katz / Beth Wenner

Reach out to us:

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a just world for all