

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

February 5, 2012

* All who are able are invited to stand. Please stand to sing all hymns unless otherwise directed.

Congregational responses are printed in **bold type**.

PRELUDE "My Lord! What a Morning"

Joe Utterback

RINGING OF THE BELLS

We Enter the Presence of God

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based in Psalm 147, Grant and Tirabassi)

One: Come, flock of voices, sing!

Come and sound your praises to our God!

All: **Come, mount the wings of exaltation!**

Come, fledging choir, and fly!

One: Have you no loss that God's hand restored?

Have you no break that God's hand repaired?

All: **Have you no strife that God's hand repealed?**

Have you no life that God's hand redeemed?

One: Then lift your voice and sing!

A song of praise—

sweet music of the sphere:

All: **Our God of Life still lives!**

*HYMN OF GATHERING: No. 23:

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

*UNISON PRAYER (based in Psalm 147, Grant and Tirabassi)

**Gentle God, you give the stars names,
you feed fledgling ravens when they cry,
you heal the brokenhearted,
and you listen to us.
We come to find your love
not with horse-strength
or runner-speed
but with our wounds
and namelessness
and need for a song. Amen**

*MOMENT OF SILENCE

*LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy
name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on
earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: We come to find holy love where we most
need it, where we are yet incomplete. And
we pray for its peaceful presence among us.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us extend to one another that peace.

*GLORIA No. 34

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN (10:00)

ANTHEM (10:00) "Great is the Lord"
Chancel Choir

Smith

We Hear of the Grace of God

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 40:21-31 OT p. 668

Mark 1:29-39 NT p. 35

The complete lectionary for the day also includes Psalm 147:1-11, 20c and 1 Corinthians 9:16-23. Sunday School is based in Mark 1:29-39 with a key verse from Psalm 147:1a – It is a good thing to sing praises to our God.

RESPONSE: No. 354

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's
righteousness.
And all things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

SERMON: "Where to Begin?"

Rev. Martha Brunell

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 628: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

We Respond to the Call of God

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Silent Prayer

Guided Prayer

SHARING PARISH LIFE

*(Please keep announcements to a minute or less. And stand
squarely in front of the microphone. Thank you.)*

***During this time please sign the Friendship Pad
in your pew.***

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Offertory

(8:30) "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Diane Bish

(10:00) "Variations on a Theme by Weigl"

Dancia

Lauren Hunter, violin

*Doxology No. 30

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation (spoken by an Elder)

We're here because we're hungry

for all that God offers:

for acceptance, for challenge,

for a place and a people

who want to be with us,

who want to feast with us,

whoever we are, and whatever we bring.

(Janet Morley)

Breaking of Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Elements/Communion Hymn #425

(Elements are served in the pews. Please hold until all have been served. Gluten free bread is available.

Both grape juice (dark) and wine (light) are in the trays.)

*Words of Thanksgiving

For every deep hunger fed, we give thanks.

For every thirst in its turn quenched, we give thanks.

For every seat of healing found, we give thanks.

For every moment of welcome here, we give thanks.

For every reflection of Christ's face, every sound of Christ's voice, every comfort in Christ's name,

we give thanks.

**May we go forth again with such thanks, full of
praise and promise along our way.**

*HYMN OF PARTING NO. 619: "My Life Flows On"

*BLESSING (Victor Hugo)

*Have courage for the great sorrows of life
and patience for the small ones;
and when you have laboriously
accomplished your daily task,
go to sleep in peace. God is awake.*

*RESPONSE: "Iona Gloria" (sung three times)

*POSTLUDE Toccata on "Old Hundred"

Gordon Young

Greet one another with joy this day. It is good to be together. Coffee hour follows the early service at 9:15 in the Lounge. A Stone Soup luncheon, compliments of our church school children and staff, follows the late service at 11:15 in the Dining Room downstairs. Everyone is invited to stay for lunch. All proceeds from the luncheon will be given to the local Habitat for Humanity House of Faith project. Thank you to

everyone who is serving at the Delonis Center this afternoon. Check below for all the other mission and outreach opportunities this month. See you next Sunday.

February Projects

- A Day for Peace – Thursday, February 9 – Quarter Bistro will donate 25% of your total bill to Peace Neighborhood Center. There are flyers on the bulletin board outside the office. These are good for lunch or dinner that day.
- Peace Neighborhood Center Friday food distribution – there is information and a sign up sheet on the office bulletin board.
- Local Habitat Build workday, Saturday, February 11 – see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board opposite the office.
- Food Gatherers fresh produce collection – Sunday, February 12 – see the list in this bulletin for preferred fruits and vegetables
- Alpha House Day – Sunday, February 12 – again the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board opposite the office
- Blanket Sunday – offering envelopes are in offering packets, if you receive them, and they are also available in the pews.
- Stevie D and the Wanabees benefit concert for *Groundcover* on Saturday, February 25, starting at 7:30, Creekside Grill.
- Peace Neighborhood Center after school program, Tuesday, February 28 – check the office bulletin board.
- Food Gatherers non-perishable food item collection. Let's see how many times we can fill our food barrel this month!

If you are interested in donating Sunday flowers or signing up to sponsor or help sponsor a week of our radio broadcast, please see the flower and radio posters by the office door.

FRESH PRODUCE COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Apples		Winter Squash
Broccoli		Cauliflower
Yams, Sweet potatoes		Onions
Blueberries		Carrots
Tangerines		Cabbage
Grapefruit		Peppers
Oranges		Cucumbers
Potatoes	Celery	Green Beans

Copies of the new *Visitor* are available at the 4th and 5th Avenue entrances and in the Dining Room. Rissa, our *Groundcover* vendor, is around the building with the new February issue. Are you aware that Martha writes a monthly column for *Groundcover*? Check it out.

First time visitors are invited to sign one of the guest books in the front of the sanctuary or in the welcome area at the 4th Avenue entrance. Also, everyone is asked to sign the friendship pads in the pews. Thank you. Further information about Bethlehem is on our website, www.bethlehem-ucc.org.

If you would like to receive the email blasts that are sent from the office each week, please let us know in the office and give us your email address.

Mission Trip 2012

The sign up sheet for this summer's mission trip is on the young adult bulletin board by the office. This trip to Benton Harbor, MI will run from Sunday, June 24 through Saturday, June 30. We will stay at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, MI. The mission trip is open to anyone 16 years or older. Volunteer planners are needed to help organize fundraisers, arrange worksites, and organize lodging and meals. See the sign up sheet or talk with Pastor Greg for further details.

If you still need a 2012 pledge card, there are some in both narthexes. See an usher to pick up one.

Looking Ahead to Lent

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Our theme for the season is ***Surrounded With Doors***. The theme is drawn from the many doors of our building and from Joyce Rupp's book *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self*. Rupp is an experienced and well known writer and retreat leader whose work takes her around the globe. She has probed the door image herself and with those on retreat in a host of different settings. Her book is a substantial guide and invitation for our movement into authentic life with one another.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be services in the chapel at 11 am and at 7 pm. During the next five weeks of Lent, there will be study sessions on Mondays (February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 26) at 11 am and at 5:00 pm in the Lounge. On any given week, morning and evening service or study will be the same. Ash Wednesday worship and the five study sessions will be grounded in Rupp's book. We will have several copies of the book available in the office for you to borrow or you can purchase a book yourself. It will be helpful but not necessary for you to read the book prior to our meeting in worship or study. Each session will relate to the others and will also stand on its own. Come and be with us each week or periodically as your schedule allows.



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